

FESTIVAL HANDBOOK
#GTLF2019



FOREWORDS
AFTERWORDS

21 – 24 NOVEMBER 2019
PENANG, MALAYSIA



**GEORGE
TOWN
LITERARY
FESTIVAL**

forewords/afterwords

Sweeping changes in politics around the world and here at home may have brought new hope for many but difficult questions remain: the crisis of democracy and ecology, and the rise of nationalist populism are only a few signs of things to come. Have we been here before and can we learn from the past?

This year's theme engages notions of beginnings and transitions, with a strong emphasis on history. We celebrate pivotal moments in modern history: the centenary of the end of the First World War which precipitated profound changes around the world, not least in the realm of culture and ideas, such as the May Fourth Movement in China and the Weimar Republic and the birth of Bauhaus in Germany. Also significant for its global reverberations are the 40th anniversary of the Iranian Revolution and the epoch changing Fall of the Berlin Wall 30 years ago. Back home, half a century has passed since the May 13th incident: a trauma that continues to shape the ideological contours of our contemporary reality.

George Town Literary Festival (GTLF)

is an international literary festival celebrating world literature, translations and literary arts. Held annually in the UNESCO World Heritage site of George Town, Penang, GTLF is an initiative by the State Government of Penang and remains one of the few free festivals open to the public. Since its first edition in 2011 which featured just five writers, GTLF has grown to become Malaysia's largest literary festival. It became one of the world's leading literary festivals upon receiving the Literary Festival Award at the London Book Fair's International Excellence Awards in 2018.

Curatorial Team



Pauline Fan

Festival Co-Director

Pauline is a writer and literary translator. Her translations from German to Malay include works by Bertolt Brecht, Immanuel Kant, and Paul Celan. Her English translations of poems by Sarawak poet Kulleh Grasi was published by Circumference Books in September 2019. She is creative director of PUSAKA and is an Adviser to Mekong Review.



Sharaad Kuttan

Festival Co-Director

Sharaad has been curating conversations on various platforms for the last 30 years. Currently host of a talk show on Astro Awani, he spent many years presenting a radio show. Sharaad has a keen interest in political analysis; he co-edited a book on Singaporean cultural politics, contributed to scholarly analysis of the local electoral system, and has had columns in various media. He is a member of the International Art Critics Association (IACA).



Shankar R. Santhiram

Guest Curator

Shankar is an entrepreneur, restaurateur and author. He read law and is currently a member of the Penang State Human Resources Committee. Shankar co-founded Malaysia's oldest dedicated stand-up comedy club and owns two F&B outlets in Kuala Lumpur. He also writes a column for a national newspaper and has a daily segment on Lite.FM.

Welcome Messages



Chow Kon Yeow
Chief Minister of
Penang

Selamat Datang.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to George Town, Penang for the ninth edition of the George Town Literary Festival (GTLF).

I am very proud of how GTLF has grown into one of the major literary festivals of the world, and is now an important attraction of the Southeast Asian region. Over the years, people have been travelling far and wide to be here to partake in the festival. This year, we are proud to host over a hundred talents from all over the world, while showcasing Penang as the perfect environment for the world's brightest minds to gather and exchange knowledge.

Set within the UNESCO World Heritage Site of George Town, GTLF is one of Penang's arts and culture assets, and it is proof of how the state government remains fully committed to knowledge and literature. Further evidence of this, is the fact that George Town Literary Festival remains the only literary festival in the country that is funded by the state government. This is part of the Penang State Government's persistent efforts and initiative to develop arts and culture through the 'Penang 2030' vision.

Accordingly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank and commend the team behind George Town Literary Festival 2019 for producing another great edition of the festival. and I also would like to welcome our new festival co-directors

To our festival authors and attendees from Penang and the rest of the world, may you enjoy your time here while discovering the best of what the literary world and Penang have to offer.

Chow Kon Yeow
Chief Minister of Penang



Yeoh Soon Hin
Penang State Exco
for Tourism, Arts,
Culture & Heritage

First and foremost, welcome to my home state of Penang for another year of Malaysia's most prestigious literary festival.

As a Penangite, it gives me great joy to know more and more people are coming to Penang for its vibrant culture and world-class events. Penang's tourism is on the rise and has experienced a boom since the city was awarded the Unesco World Heritage Site Status in 2008.

As a result, more of Penang's events and attractions gained international attention. George Town Literary Festival, which is entering its ninth year, is no longer one of Penang's hidden treasures. It has become an award-winning, international literary festival, and it continues to bring the world's greatest minds to Penang to reflect upon the world and the way we live.

This year's festival programme is filled with all kinds of activities and discussions about our history and the state of the world, but the festival also takes a few moments to appreciate Penang's culture. Food programmes, which feature talks with some of Penang's best-known food makers, will help introduce festival-goers to Penang cuisine. We will also see a special session which brings NGOs, activists, members of the state, and writers together to discuss the future of Penang. Where else in Malaysia, or Southeast Asia, will you find this spirit of collaboration if not in Penang?

I hope you will find something in Penang worth bringing back to your homes, and may you always keep Penang close to your heart.

Yeoh Soon Hin
Penang State Exco for Tourism, Arts, Culture & Heritage

Welcome Messages



Ashwin Gunasekeran
Chief Executive Officer
of Penang Convention &
Exhibition Bureau

Welcome to the ninth edition of the George Town Literary Festival produced by the Penang Convention & Exhibition Bureau.

This year, we herald four days of new beginnings as the George Town Literary Festival returns with a change in curatorship and many new partnerships and initiatives.

Our carefully-curated festival programme now features daily lectures and one-on-one conversations with literary figures, as well as food talks, and special readings. Discussions about the creation and appreciation of literature continue to be complemented with moments that engage prominent global issues, with this year's focus points being the ecological crisis, the displacement of communities around the world, and the future of activism.

We are also very thrilled to have one of the world's best-known bookstore brands on board this year. Our partnership with Kinokuniya will result in an abundance of contemporary world literature during the GTLF weekend. Elsewhere, our strategic partnership with ThinkCity will translate into how the festival runs, as we continue pushing for greener, more sustainable operations in light of increasing global climate awareness.

As ever, we are thankful for the continuous support of returning and new partners including the Japan Foundation, the Embassy of France in Kuala Lumpur, Goethe Institut, the Embassy of Belgium in Malaysia, the High Commission of Canada, Writers South Australia, Flanders Literature, the Taipei Economic & Cultural Office in Malaysia, Norwegian Literature Abroad, Asia Foundation, the Penang Public Libraries Corporation, Fixi, Malaysia Airlines, and the Arts Council of Australia.

To all festival-goers, I wish you an illuminating time at our festival and hope that in the future, you'll always look back fondly at this experience in Penang.

Ashwin Gunasekeran
Chief Executive Officer of Penang Convention & Exhibition Bureau



**Pauline Fan &
Sharaad Kuttan**
Festival Co-Directors

If libraries and bookstores are shrines to the imagination, a trip to a literary festival is like a stop in a life-long pilgrimage of learning, discovery and adventure. George Town Literary Festival has become a known name in the global circuit of literary festivals and a special destination for writers and readers from all corners of the earth.

This year we hope to have built on that legacy established by Bernice Chauly and the many talented people she worked with over the years. In this 9th edition of GTLF we have added some new elements, planting seeds for new initiatives with schools and public libraries which we hope will grow future audiences and deepen an intellectual culture that Penang already so amply demonstrates.

Our formidable line-up of speakers and moderators this year is as diverse as it is engaging—we have fiction and non-fiction writers, poets, historians, journalists, scholars, essayists, memoirists, storytellers, translators, playwrights, film directors, jazz musicians and performers of oral traditions.

The evidence is compelling that a life immersed in books and the imagination is deeply connected to wellbeing and success. Even though GTLF is but a small moment in the life of our nation we hope we can, through it, showcase in a microcosm, our commitment to freedom of expression, a celebration of pluralism, and an ability to think through and respect differences.

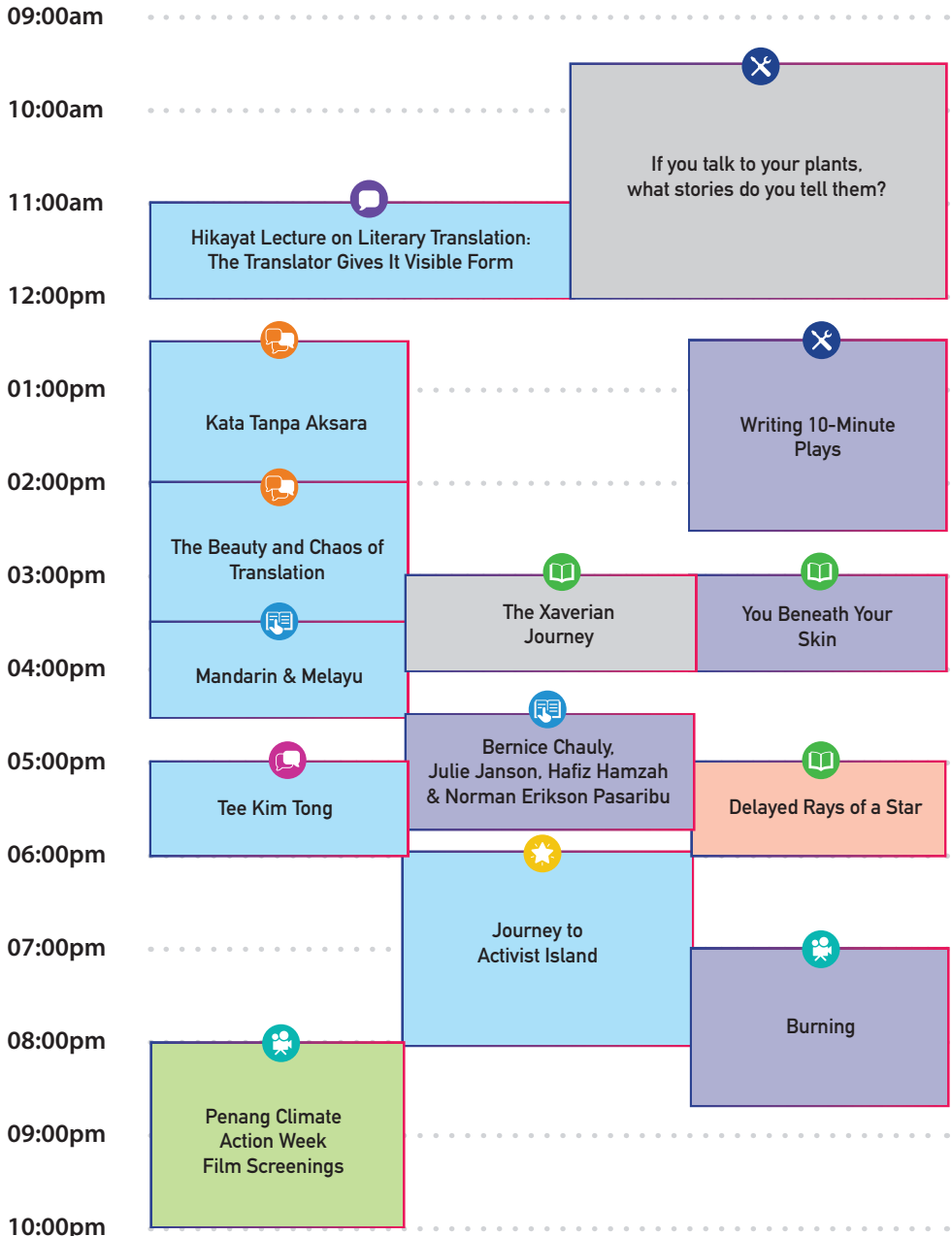
A festival is a gathering in celebration. If you leave having been excited by new ideas, teased and provoked by words and images, and delighted by the communion of people joining in common purpose, then we will consider our task done.

Finally we would like to thank the Penang State Government and the Penang Convention & Exhibition Bureau for giving us the opportunity to grow with them in making GTLF a shining example of a cultural initiative that works. We hope that GTLF will continue to celebrate and nurture world literature in all its wondrous forms.

Pauline Fan & Sharaad Kuttan
Festival Co-Directors

21 November Thursday

- Ground Floor, UAB Building
- Hikayat
- Black Kettle
- Other
- 88 Armenian





Special Event



Discussion



Conversation



Talk



Venue



Book Launch



Screening



Reading



Workshop

9:30 am - 12:00 pm



Ground Control,
Hin Bus Depot

Workshop: **If you talk to your plants, what stories do you tell them?**

People say the trick to a successful garden, is talking to your plants. If so, are there particular stories that they like to hear to help them grow? Join Harbir Gill for a hands-on workshop and listen to the stories that have helped him in his garden. This workshop is designed for anyone who is interested to get started in growing fresh vegetables in their houses or apartments, or anyone who has already been bitten by the gardening bug, but wants to see better results. All you need to bring are a good hat, sturdy pair of shoes, an open mind and willing hands.

Facilitator: Harbir Gill

Fees: RM50 per participant for gardening course; RM100 for course and garden-to-table lunch at Au Jardin.

11:00 am - 12:00 pm



Level 1,
Black Kettle

Hikayat Lecture on Literary Translation: **The Translator Gives It Visible Form: Translating Malay and Indonesian Literature**

Literary translation is easy. You just replace the words in one language with the same words in another language. If only this were true. A compelling reflection dealing with the complexity of translation, beginning with the first crucial decision: knowing which words belong together.

Speaker: Harry Aveling

12:30 pm - 1:50 pm



Tingkat 1,
Black Kettle

Perbincangan: **Kata Tanpa Aksara**

Sastera bermula dari kata. Sebelum perkembangan sastera bertulis, sastera lisan merupakan salah satu bentuk kebudayaan yang ulung di Alam Melayu dan rantau ini. Bagaimanakah penulis dan pembaca hari ini mendekati sastera dan tradisi lisan? Apakah sastera masa kini dapat mengenali semula dan mewujudkan dialog dengan warisan lisan kita?

Panelis: Kulleh Grasi, Nam Ron, Muhammad Haji Salleh

Moderator: Regina Ibrahim

21 November Thursday



Special Event



Discussion



Conversation



Talk



Venue



Book Launch



Screening



Reading



Workshop

12:30 pm - 2:30 pm



Hikayat Blue,
Hikayat

Workshop: Ten Minute Plays

If you're new to playwriting and want to practice playwriting, there is no better way than to learn how to write a 10-minute play. This 2-hour workshop will focus on both imagination and emotions to tell a compelling and at times life-changing stories. Participants can expect to be challenged emotionally, mentally and vocally, to be more open and vulnerable not only to their own stories but to those around them as well. Writers will be taught how to use their own life experiences and fantasies to express their deepest thoughts and desires. But beware - writing a 10-Minute play may turn you into a psychotic mess! You have to come up with an ingenious idea, figure an inventive and enthralling stage mechanism, employ riveting and tender characters, serve boiling hot action, and implant sensational dialogue. And get it under 10 minutes.

Facilitator: Fa Abdul

2:00 pm - 3:20 pm



Level 1,
Black Kettle

Discussion: The Beauty and Chaos of Translation

Literary translators live in several worlds at once, traversing boundaries of language, time, space and social context. What are the highs and lows, the exhilarations and frustrations, of literary translation? How does a translator transform the chaos of language and thought into a thing of beauty?

Speakers: Tiffany Tsao, Jennifer Kronovet, Adriana Nordin Manan, Fahmi Mustaffa

Moderator: Jeffrey Yang

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm



Hikayat Blue,
Hikayat

Book Launch: You Beneath Your Skin

It's a dark, smog-choked new Delhi winter. Indian American single mother Anjali Morgan juggles her job as a psychiatrist with caring for her autistic teenage son. She is in a long-standing affair with ambitious police commissioner Jatin Bhatt – an irresistible attraction that could destroy both their lives. Jatin's home life is falling apart: his handsome and charming son is not all he appears to be, and his wife has too much on her plate to pay attention to either husband or son. But Jatin refuses to listen to anyone, not even the sister to whom he is deeply attached. Across the city there is a crime spree: slum women found stuffed in trash bags, faces and bodies disfigured by acid. And as events spiral out of control Anjali is horrifyingly at the centre of it all.

Author: Damyanti Biswas



Special Event



Discussion



Conversation



Talk



Venue



Book Launch



Screening



Reading



Workshop

3:00 pm - 4:30 pm



Karpal Singh Hall,
St. Xavier's Institution

Book Launch: **The Xaverian Journey**

The Xaverian Journey is a chronicle of the founding, growth and progress of a Lasallian school in Penang. Using St. Xavier's and Penang as their regional base, the La Salle Brothers spread and founded schools throughout the Malayan peninsula and in East Asia. This book honours those Brothers, Lay Teachers and students who served the school. Charting the story of one of Penang's oldest schools, The Xaverian Journey is a collaborative labour of love by St. Xavier's Institution alumni Francis Loh Kok Wai, Cecilia Ng & Anthony Rogers.

Authors: Francis Loh Kok Wai,
Cecilia Ng & Anthony Rogers

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm



Level 1,
Black Kettle

GTLF Readings: **Mandarin Dan Melayu**

What are the stories being told in Mahua Literature, and which ones have been translated for a Malaysian audience? This special reading highlights notable Chinese to Malay translations of locally-written works.

Featuring: Tan Cheng Sin,
Florence Kuek, Kho Tong Guan,
Regina Ibrahim

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm



Hikayat Blue,
Hikayat

GTLF Readings: **Bernice Chauly, Julie Janson, Hafiz Hamzah & Norman Erikson Pasaribu**

Hear the words spoken by the very writers who penned them! GTLF Readings is an opportunity to listen to select authors at GTLF read their works.

Readers: Bernice Chauly, Julie Janson, Hafiz Hamzah, Norman Erikson Pasaribu

21 November Thursday



Special Event



Discussion



Conversation



Talk



Venue



Book Launch



Screening



Reading



Workshop

5:00 pm - 5:50 pm



Level 1,
Black Kettle

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm



Copper,
88 Armenian

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm



Level 1,
Black Kettle

GTLF Conversations: **Tee Kim Tong**

George Town Literary Festival presents 1-1 conversations with authors currently making waves in world literature. Zhou Hau Liew speaks to Mahua Literature academic Tee Kim Tong in this special session.

Speaker: Tee Kim Tong

Moderator: Kho Tong Guan

Book Launch: **Delayed Rays of a Star**

When a photographer captures Marlene Dietrich, Anna May Wong and Leni Riefenstahl in one frame at a party in Berlin in 1928, no one realizes the extent to which their lives will reflect the tumultuous decades that follow. Marlene crosses the Atlantic to find fame in Hollywood, the town that eats out of the palm of her hand till her wrinkles begin to show. After establishing her position as a filmmaker, Leni watches her fame turn to notoriety following the defeat of Nazi Germany. Nine and a half times out of ten films, the side characters played by Anna May must die so the white male lead can be returned to his white paramour on the screen. In the murky world these women navigate, their choices will be held up to the test of time. And the real question is, how much has anything changed?

Author: Amanda Lee Koe

Special Event: **Journey to Activist Island**

Penang has the enviable reputation within the Federation of being a hub of social activism that has deep, rhizomic roots cross the Island, linking university to NGOs to think tanks, community initiatives to lone cause-orientated individuals. Amidst the celebration of its activism as a driver for democratic change and essential ingredient for good governance, we ask what is around the next bend for activism in Malaysia.

Featuring: Remy Prakash Chacko, Prema Devaraj, Francis Loh Kok Wai, Murali Ram, Syerleena Abdul Rashid, Izzuddin Ramli, Sharaad Kuttan



Special Event



Discussion



Conversation



Talk



Venue



Book Launch



Screening



Reading



Workshop

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm



Hikayat Blue,
Hikayat

Screening: Burning

The difficult life of Jong-su, an introverted young novelist, is complicated by the appearance of two people into his orbit: Hae-mi, a spirited woman who offers romantic possibility, and Ben, a wealthy and sophisticated young man. A slow-burning, powerful adaptation of Haruki Murakami's fabled short story.

This screening is brought to you by KakiKINO @ Hikayat Film Club as part of their season on Literary Adaptations to Film (Lit AF)!

8:00 pm - 10:00 pm



The Lounge,
UAB Building

Screening: River of Life Expedition

This documentary by Linus Chung follows Member of Parliament of Serdang, Dr Ong Kian Ming and his friends as they traverse the Klang River and expose the shocking reality of Malaysia's urban river systems.

Screening: Sunken Graves

Nizam Andan and Nelson Raymond documents the experience of the villagers of Kampung Tamparak, Penampang, who sacrificed their village to make way for the construction of the controversial Babagon Dam.

Screening: A Plastic Ocean

In his search for the elusive blue whale, a journalist discovers plastic in what should be a pristine ocean.

Screening: Saving Penang's River: Sungai Kelian to Sungai Ara

Rexy Prakash Chacko of the Penang Hills Watch project and Dr. Dr Kam Suan Pheng of Penang Forum visit the cleanest river in Penang, Sungai Ara, and also explore Sungai Kelian.



*These screenings are brought to you by Think City in conjunction with **Penang Climate Action Week!***

22 November Friday

- Ground Floor, UAB Building
- Level 1, UAB Building
- Black Kettle
- Hikayat
- China House
- 88 Armenian
- Other

09:00am

10:00am

11:00am

12:00pm

01:00pm

02:00pm

03:00pm

04:00pm

05:00pm

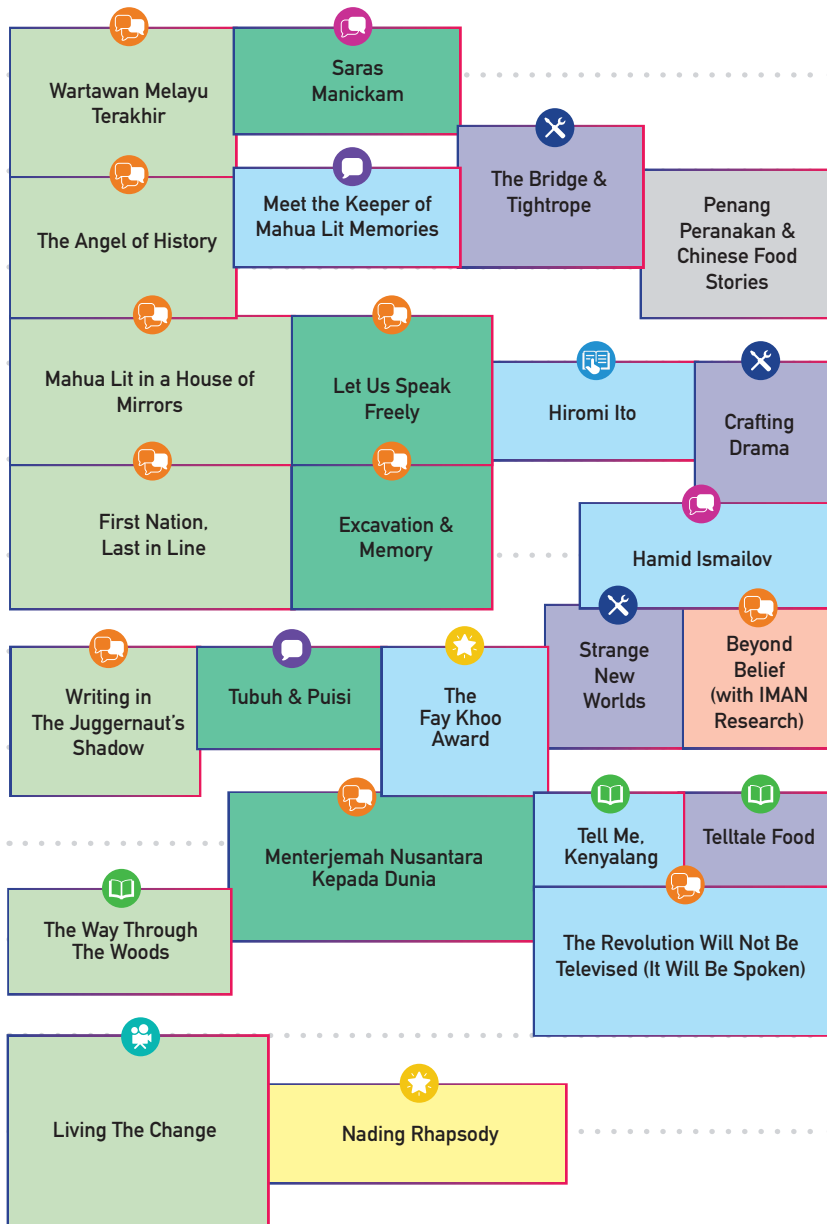
06:00pm

07:00pm

08:00pm

09:00pm

10:00pm





Special Event



Discussion



Conversation



Talk



Venue



Book Launch



Screening



Reading



Workshop

9:30 am - 10:20 am



Level 1,
Black Kettle

9:30 am - 10:50 am



Tingkat Bawah,
Bangunan UAB

10:30 am - 12:00 pm



Hikayat Blue,
Hikayat

GTLF Conversations: Saras Manickam

George Town Literary Festival presents 1-1 conversations with authors currently making waves in world literature. Tehmina Kaoosji speaks to Commonwealth Short Story Prize winner Saras Manickam in this special session.

Speaker: Saras Manickam

Moderator: Tehmina Kaoosji

Perbincangan: Wartawan Melayu Terakhir

Kewartawanan dan persuratkhabaran Bahasa Melayu memainkan peranan yang penting dalam masyarakat kita sejak zaman pra-Merdeka lagi. Apakah selok-belok sejarah dan perkembangan menarik dalam bidang kewartawanan Melayu dari kaca mata wartawan yang berpengalaman? Apakah penutupan Utusan Malaysia kebelakangan ini menandakan keruntuhan institusi kewartawanan Melayu akibat terlalu lama terikat dengan kuasa politik? Mungkinkah golongan penulis muda dapat kembalikan nyawa serta semangat kritis dan bebas ke bidang kewartawanan dan institusi akhbar Melayu?

Panelis: Zin Mahmud, Wan Hamidi, Fa Abdul

Moderator: Suhaimi Sulaiman

Workshop: The Bridge and Tightrope: Literary Translation from Malay to English

Malay and English have vastly different features. Tenses, gender pronouns, expressions and clear hierarchies of respect and deference when speaking are but a few examples of the striking contrasts between both languages. So is translating between the two like crossing a bridge, or more like walking a tightrope? In this hands-on workshop, we will translate excerpts of a few literary works in Malay to English, and take a deeper look at the struggles we face when translating.

Facilitator: Adriana Nordin Manan

Fees: RM75 per participant

22 November Friday



Special Event



Discussion



Conversation



Talk



Venue



Book Launch



Screening



Reading



Workshop

11:00 am - 11:50 am



Level 1,
Black Kettle

Discussion: **Meet the Keeper of Mahua Lit Memories**

The archive has never been more important than it is today as a repository of the shifting imagination and evolving tastes of a society. Holding more than 22,000 books; over fifteen-thousand journals and magazines; and digital library of around 140,000 entries, Southern University College's collection of Mahua related works is an extraordinary effort. We explore the intellectual glue that binds the collection. (Bilingual: English and Mandarin)

Speaker: Kho Tong Guan

11:00 am - 12:20 pm



Level 1,
UAB Building

Discussion: **The Angel of History**

Invoking Walter Benjamin's 'Angel of History', this conversation will explore how writers grapple with the rubble and fragments left by the 'storm of progress'. How do writers help us remember in this age of historical amnesia? And how do writers embrace the future without being paralysed by the burden of the past?

Speakers: Eliot Weinberger,
Goenawan Mohamad,
Ameena Hussein

Moderator: Ann Lee

11:00 am - 12:20 pm



Auntie Gaik Lean's
Old School Eatery

Food Narratives: **Penang Peranakan & Chinese Food Stories**

As part of the Straits Settlement, Penang cannot be separated from Peranakan Food. We dive into Nyonya cuisine and also listen to stories from one of Malaysia's oldest food manufacturers – Ghee Hiang, a brand famous for its Pure Sesame Oil as well as pastries made using traditional methods and techniques from Fujian, China.

Speakers: Beh Gaik Lean, Dato' SH Ooi

Moderator: Shankar R. Santhiram



Special Event



Discussion



Conversation



Talk



Venue



Book Launch



Screening



Reading



Workshop

12:30 pm - 1:50 pm



Ground Floor,
UAB Building

Discussion: **Mahua Lit in a House of Mirrors**

The trajectory of the Chinese Malaysian imaginary speaks to the fluid, multiple identities of the modern person. Malaysian literature in Mandarin is a prism through which we can discern the complexity of Chinese identity in our heated cultural melting-pot. What are the characters that inhabit the literary worlds of Mahua literature telling us about ourselves?

Speakers: Ho Sok Fong, Tee Kim Tong, Elaine Chiew
Tan Cheng Sin

Moderator: Zhou Hau Liew

12:30 pm - 1:50 pm



Level 1,
UAB Building

Discussion: **Let Us Speak Freely Now**

Southeast Asia entered the 21st century with the hope that its collective market of 600 million people would help propel its further growth. With a few exceptions, the governments of the region remain firmly in an authoritarian mode, treating their own citizens with suspicion, using censorship to maintain themselves in power. Can writers and others in the creative arts change the story of South East Asia? Will their pens prove powerless in the face of state power?

Speakers: Bernice Chauly, Faisal Tehrani, Carlomar Arcangel
Daoana, Preetipls

Moderator: Tiwin Aji

1:00 pm - 1:50 pm



Level 1,
Black Kettle

GTLF Readings: **Hiroimi Ito**

Hear the words spoken by the very writers who penned them! GTLF Readings is an opportunity to listen to select authors at GTLF read their works.

Reader: Hiroimi Ito

22 November Friday



Special Event



Discussion



Conversation



Talk



Venue



Book Launch



Screening



Reading



Workshop

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm



Hikayat Blue,
Hikayat

Workshop: **Crafting Drama: Screenwriting Basics**

Screenplays form the starting point for most dramatic films, the essential work from which all other filmmaking flows. All of the tender romance, terrifying action and memorable lines begin at the screenwriter's desk. This workshop will give you a basic understanding of the dramatic formula for creating an exceptionally good screenplay. You can do comedy or action-adventure or deal with controversial themes, but the basis of your work must be writing with a good dramatic structure.

Facilitator: Al Jafree Md Yusop

Fees: RM60 per participant

2:00 pm - 3:20 pm



Ground Floor,
UAB Building

Discussion: **First Nation, Last in Line**

Indigenous is a category given meaning almost entirely by its context: often tribal, non-industrial communities marginalised by dominant settler communities, 'rescued' today by the concerns of multi-cultural politics to bring the periphery back into focus. But has it led indigenous writers to be limited to representations of their history, traditions, relationship to nature as well as their experienced injustice? Are these themes a burden or a strength for the indigenous writer and how do they negotiate them?

Speakers: Darrel McLeod, Kulleh Grasi, Julie Janson

Moderator: Chris Parry

2:00 pm - 3:20 pm



Level 1,
UAB Building

Discussion: **Excavation and Memory**

What is the nature of the spaces that memory opens up and how does it alter the structure and flow of time? How do writers engage in the process of remembering and forgetting, digging through the strata of the past, and interpreting their traces and inscriptions upon the present? How does memory reorient the writer and what does it allow to be (re)born?

Speakers: Jokha Alharthi, Nikola Madzirov, Long Litt Woon

Moderator: Lilianne Fan



Special Event



Discussion



Conversation



Talk



Venue



Book Launch



Screening



Reading



Workshop

2:30 pm - 3:20 pm



Level 1,
Black Kettle

GTLF Conversations: **Hamid Ismailov**

George Town Literary Festival presents 1-1 conversations with authors currently making waves in world literature. Kam Raslan speaks to renowned Uzbek novelist Hamid Ismailov in this special session.

Speaker: Hamid Ismailov

Moderator: Kam Raslan

3:30pm - 4:50pm



Copper,
88 Armenian

Discussion: **Beyond Belief (with Iman Research)**

Nowhere else but Southeast Asia, especially Malaysia and Indonesia, can religion, national identity, language and culture intermingle, clash and also live side by side. How then do we live with ourselves and in the nations that we call our countries when we have a bipolar relationship with the very essence that identifies us?

Speakers: Faisal Tehrani,
Norman Erikson Pasaribu,
Amanda Lee Koe

Moderator: Dina Zaman

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm



Hikayat Blue,
Hikayat

Workshop: **Worldbuilding 101: Strange New Worlds**

Speculative fiction often takes place in otherworldly settings, such as George R.R. Martin's Westeros, the planet Illus in the Expanse novels by James S.A. Corey, or a slightly different version of the world we know. The details that go into the imagining of a fantastical setting allow the writer to both ground a narrative in reality and challenge the notions of that reality. This workshop will give participants the skills to be able to create their own strange new worlds as the backdrops for their fiction.

Facilitator: Jason Erik Lundberg

Fees: RM75 per participant

22 November Friday



Special Event



Discussion



Conversation



Talk



Venue



Book Launch



Screening



Reading



Workshop

4:00 pm - 5:20 pm



Ground Floor,
UAB Building

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm



Level 1,
Black Kettle

4:00 pm - 5:00pm



Level 1,
Bangunan UAB

Discussion: Writing in the Juggernaut's Shadow

Extraordinary pressures have been put on India's democratic culture in the last few years, with the country's press freedom ranking dropping to 140 this year out of 180 countries surveyed. Is this an adequate picture of the stresses on what was an exemplar democracy in the developing world, and how have writers and responded to this shift in India's politics.

Speakers: Perumal Murugan, Kannan Sundaram, Dhvani Solani

Moderator: Sumit Mandal

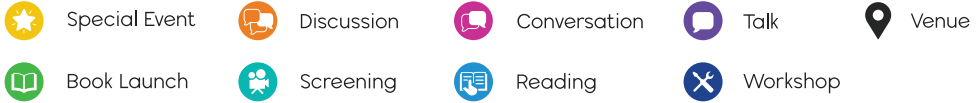
Special Event: The Fay Khoo Award for Food+Drink Writing

The aim of The Fay Khoo Award for Food+Drink Writing is to recognise new and talented voices, and to encourage and develop excellence in food and drink narratives. We believe that there is a space and a need for well-researched and impactful food journalism, because it is through such writing that we can shine a light on people, culture, health, economics and the environment of culinary delight. It is vital too that we acknowledge the different media of storytelling.

Syarahan: Tubuh & Puisi

Tubuh adalah daya yang sering dilupakan, yang memberi puisi pergerakan lisannya. Chairil Anwar telah kembalikannya ke puisi kita. Puisi pun hidup dari ritma, bunyi, imajan, dan mengelakkan, bahkan menentang, "ke-ber-arti-an".

Penyampai: Goenawan Mohamad



5:30 pm - 6:30 pm



Book Launch: Telltale Food

Telltale Food features an astonishing variety of writings that are a delicious revelation: sensory, nourishing narratives, exploring themes of hunger, discovery, growth, delight and sorrow, wrapped in the world of food, cooking and eating. In their mostly Asian-inspired stories, the writers of the Fay Khoo Award transport us from the kitchens they have inherited to the ones they have adopted, down buzzy streets and its swish restaurants. There is the taste of joyful celebration and the bite of heartbreak. There is food for comfort, and food for friends, and food for the gods. And there is humour and adventure and coming of age. Through the twin lenses of memory and reflection, this is food writing for the senses and the soul.

Editor: Bettina Chua Abdullah

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm



Book Launch: Tell Me, Kenyalang

Tell Me, Kenyalang is a multi-lingual collection of poems by Kulleh Grasi, a writer and musician from Sarawak, Malaysia. This groundbreaking book is one of a handful of contemporary works written in Malay to be translated into English and the first in decades to include Malaysian indigenous languages. Translator Pauline Fan brings the work into a thrilling, living English. Kulleh Grasi's poems are entirely new and yet intimate. They are entwined with myth and nature and yet are fully post-modern. They are outside the context of American poetry and also deeply inside the questions and experiences American poets are grappling with today: questions of identity in relation to nation and language and sexuality.

Author: Kulleh Grasi

5:30 pm - 6:50pm



Perbincangan: Menterjemah Nusantara Kepada Dunia

Apakah sastera Nusantara jaguh kampung atau sebenarnya cukup layak untuk ditonjolkan ke persada dunia? Sertai perbualan menarik tentang kegiatan penterjemahan bersama Prof. Muhammad Hj. Salleh, Sapardi Djoko Damono, Adriana Nordin Manan dan Ram Al Jaffri. Antara perkara yang bakal dibincangkan ialah kemahiran penterjemah, komitmen penulis, usaha industri dan cabaran kehendak pasaran.

Panelis: Muhamad Haji Salleh, Adriana Nordin Manan, Ram Al Jaffri Saad, Sapardi Djoko Damono, S. M. Zakir

Moderator: Al-Mustaqeem M. Radhi

22 November Friday



Special Event



Discussion



Conversation



Talk



Venue



Book Launch



Screening



Reading



Workshop

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm



Ground Floor,
UAB Building

6:30 pm - 7:50 pm



Level 1,
Black Kettle

Book Launch: **The Way Through The Woods**

The Way Through the Woods tells the story of parallel journeys: an inner one, through the landscape of mourning, and an outer one, into the fascinating realm of mushrooms—resilient, adaptable, and essential to nature’s cycle of death and rebirth. From idyllic Norwegian forests and urban flower beds to the sandy beaches of Corsica and New York’s Central Park, Long Litt Woon uncovers an abundance of surprises often hidden in plain sight: salmon-pink Bloody Milk Caps, which ooze red liquid when cut; delectable morels, prized for their earthy yet delicate flavor; and bioluminescent mushrooms that light up the forest at night.

Author: Long Litt Woon

Discussion: **The Revolution Will Not Be Televised (It Will Be Spoken)**

The power of spoken word lies in its visceral immediacy. In the days of the Harlem Renaissance, the Beat poets, and Gil Scott-Heron, spoken word became a poetry of social protest and revolution. More recently, Alaa Salah became an icon of revolution in Sudan when she stood on a car to lead protest poetry-chants. Do today’s spoken word poets connect to this legacy? We look at how their art breaks the silence on taboo topics, urging radical socio-political commentary and change.

Speakers: Jack Malik, Mwaffaq Hajjar, Preeti, Nana, Subhas, Dhinesha Karthigesu

Moderator: Tehmina Kaoosji



Special Event



Discussion



Conversation



Talk



Venue



Book Launch



Screening



Reading



Workshop

6:30 pm - 7:50 pm



The Lounge,
UAB Building

8:30 pm - 9:30 pm



Canteen,
China House

Screening: Living The Change

Living the Change explores solutions to the global crises we face today – solutions any one of us can be part of – through the inspiring stories of people pioneering change in their own lives and in their communities in order to live in a sustainable and regenerative way. Directors Jordan Osmond and Antoinette Wilson are filmmakers based in Australia and New Zealand who have been making documentaries to effect change.

*This screening is brought to you by Think City in conjunction with **Penang Climate Action Week!***

Special Event: GTLF Presents... Nading Rhapsody

Nading Rhapsody, Sarawak's best-known avant-garde music ensemble, graces Penang with their soaring sounds to usher in the weekend. The band combines folk songs, ritual chantings, lullabies, myths, stories and voices to create an intoxicating experience; this is Malaysia like you've never heard before.

Artist: Nading Rhapsody

This special performance was made possible thanks to additional support from PUSAKA and China House!

23 November Saturday

- Ground Floor, UAB Building
- Level 1, UAB Building
- Black Kettle
- Hikayat
- China House
- The Nook Books & Coffee
- 88 Armenian
- MOTAC Office
- Other

09:00am

10:00am

11:00am

12:00pm

01:00pm

02:00pm

03:00pm

04:00pm

05:00pm

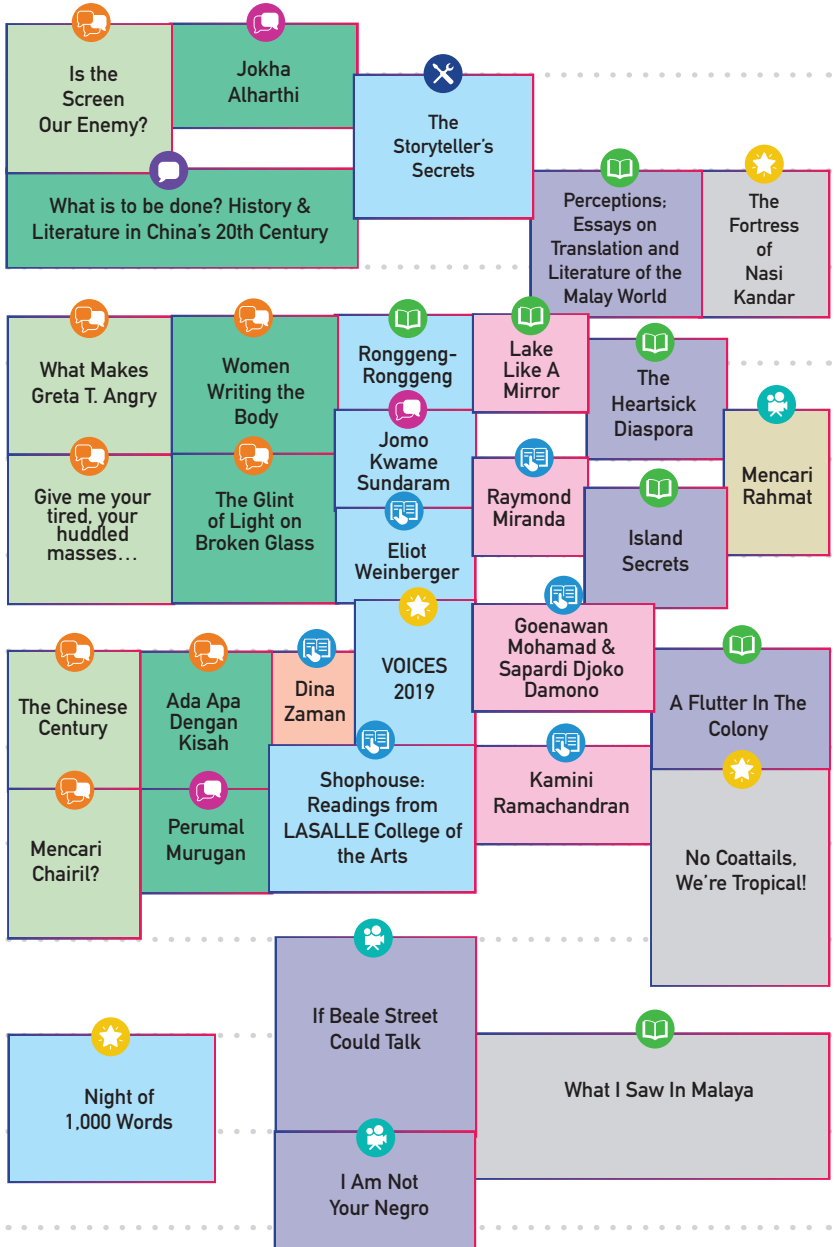
06:00pm

07:00pm

08:00pm

09:00pm

10:00pm





Special Event



Discussion



Conversation



Talk



Venue



Book Launch



Screening



Reading



Workshop

9:30 am - 10:20 am



Level 1,
UAB Building

GTLF Conversations: **Jokha Alharthi**

George Town Literary Festival presents 1-1 conversations with authors currently making waves in world literature. GTLF Festival Co-Director Pauline Fan speaks to 2019 Man Booker International Prize winner Jokha Alharthi in this special session.

Speaker: Jokha Alharthi

Moderator: Pauline Fan

9:30 am - 10:50 am



Ground Floor,
UAB Building

Discussion: **Is the Screen Our Enemy?**

Younger people are probably reading and writing as never before, but they are doing so on mobile devices and on platforms like Instagram and Tik Tok. Traditional formats and media have been challenged by the all-powerful screen, and those behind them are redefining story-telling for their corporate interests. Can we go beyond the critiques and lamentations and find a way to bring the transformative power of the word back to the next generation?

Speakers: Dhinesha Karthigesu, Lur Alghurabi, Karoline Kan, Jason Erik Lundberg

Moderator: Tiwin Aji

10:00 am - 11:30 am



Level 1,
Black Kettle

Workshop: **The Storyteller's Secrets**

Step into the world of the storyteller and discover the non-verbal techniques that keep listeners engaged. Discover methods to help you remember long epics and how to adapt stories for different audiences. Learn how to maximize your repertoire by reconstructing stories. Understand the role of variation and modulation in creating a dynamic audience experience. An introductory workshop with practical exercises targeted at those who wish to develop their storytelling skills.

Age Advisory:
18 years and above

Facilitator: Kamini Ramachandran

Fees: RM80 per participant

23 November Saturday



Special Event



Discussion



Conversation



Talk



Venue



Book Launch



Screening



Reading



Workshop

11:00 am - 12:00 pm



Level 1,
UAB Building

11:00 am - 12:20 pm



Meeting Room,
The Prestige

11:00 am - 12:20 pm



Hikayat Blue,
Hikayat

Lecture:

What is to be done? History and Literature in China's Twentieth Century

This talk takes the classic political-literary-historical question posed by Cherneshevsky, Lenin, Lu Xun, and others to meditate on the various ways in which history and literature — or, the historical and the literary as texts and fields of political, aesthetic, and activist imagination — have been intertwined in China's twentieth century. The talk proposes that only by interweaving questions of history as a fraught field of contestation to those of literature as a presentational aesthetic mode can we properly understand China's twentieth century revolutionary challenges to and in the world.

Speaker: Rebecca E. Karl

Special Event:

The Fortress of Nasi Kandar

Nasi Kandar, which originates from Penang, was popularized by Indian Muslim traders from India and has become one of Malaysia's favourite foods. Many of us know that the name of this beloved dish came about from a time when nasi (rice) hawkers or vendors would balance a kandar (pole) on their shoulder with two huge containers of rice and curries. However, Jahabar Sadiq, Melisa Idris and Shankar R. Santhiram has plenty more to share about Nasi Kandar.

Speakers: Jahabar Sadiq,
Melisa Idris

Moderator: Shankar R.
Santhiram

Book Launch:

Perceptions: Essays on Translation and Literature of the Malay World

Perceptions: Essays on Translation and Literature of the Malay World presents a variety of approaches to translation and shows how they can be applied to the writing of such major Malay authors as Abdullah Munshi, Kemala, and Shanon Ahmad. It will be an indispensable guide to the art of Translation theory and practice for practitioners, teachers and students.

Author: Harry Aveling



Special Event



Discussion



Conversation



Talk



Venue



Book Launch



Screening



Reading



Workshop

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm



The Nook Books & Coffee

Book Launch: Lake Like A Mirror

Lake Like a Mirror is a scintillating exploration of the lives of women buffeted by powers beyond their control. Squeezing themselves between the gaps of rabid urbanisation, patriarchal structures and a theocratic government, these women find their lives twisted in disturbing ways. In precise and disquieting prose, Ho Sok Fong draws her readers into a richly atmospheric world of naked sleepwalkers in a rehabilitation centre for wayward Muslims, mysterious wooden boxes, gossip in unlicensed hairdressers, hotels with amnesiac guests, and poetry classes with accidentally charged politics - a world that is peopled with the ghosts of unsaid words, unmanaged desires and uncertain statuses, surreal and utterly true.

Author: Ho Sok Fong

12:30 pm - 1:50 pm



Ground Floor,
UAB Building

Discussion: What Makes Greta T. Angry

A form of ecological pessimism is threatening to overwhelm us, robbing us of the will to imagine other, non-apocalyptic outcomes to the story of the planet and human kind's place in it. But what do we put in place of pessimism: wilful denial or technological optimism? Is there time to use our imaginations to turn the course of planetary history?

Speakers: Long Litt Woon,
Darrel McLeod, Julie Janson

Moderator: Chris Parry

12:30 pm - 1:50 pm



Level 1,
UAB Building

Discussion: Women Writing the Body

Women's bodies have long been objectified in popular entertainment, as well as in art and literature. How do women write about their own bodies, subverting the "male gaze" and articulating their own experiences, ambivalences and obsessions on subjects like eroticism, motherhood, illness, and aging?

Speakers: Hiromi Ito, Ameena Hussein, Kim Yideum, Regina Ibrahim

Moderator: Dina Zaman

23 November Saturday



Special Event



Discussion



Conversation



Talk



Venue



Book Launch



Screening



Reading



Workshop

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm



Level 1,
Black Kettle

Book Launch:

Ronggeng-Ronggeng: Malaysian Short Stories

Ronggeng-Ronggeng: Malaysian Short Stories brings together six decades of Malaysian short stories from 1959 till 2018. Comprising twenty-eight short stories from established and emerging writers, including Lee Kok Liang, KS Maniam, Shirley Geok-Lin Lim, Tunku Halim and Saras Manickam, it presents the varied and diverse multi-cultural voices of Malaysia. Although almost all the writers in this collection write from their ethnic position, their literary canvases rise above communalism. The stories in Ronggeng-Ronggeng are presented in a variety of styles, from social realism to the supernatural and horror sub-genres, and the tone of the stories range from serious to humorous. A collection for people interested in learning more about Malaysia and Malaysian writing, as well as for the general reader of new world literature.

Editor: Malachi Edwin Vethamani

12:40 pm - 2:00 pm



Hikayat Blue,
Hikayat

Book Launch:

The Heartsick Diaspora

Acutely observed, wry and playful, Elaine Chiew's debut collection celebrates people who are torn between cultures and juggling a fragmented sense of self. Five writers form a writing support group but the dynamics shift when a young, handsome Asian writer joins them; three Singaporean daughters welcome their mother on her first visit to London and quarrel over steamboat; a Chinese woman raps about being a Tiger Mother; an elderly Chinese woman recognizes that it isn't the race that estranges, but the inability to tell the truth; an ethnic writer takes on Eastern mythology in a metaphoric quest to understand the anxiety of Western literary influence. Filled with humorous and heartening short stories, this anthology is a time capsule of how identities evolve and change with the times and places.

Author: Elaine Chiew



Special Event



Discussion



Conversation



Talk



Venue



Book Launch



Screening



Reading



Workshop

1:30 pm - 2:20 pm



Level 1,
Black Kettle

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm



Audiovisual Room,
MOTAC Office

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm



The Nook Books &
Coffee

GTLF Conversations: **Jomo Kwame Sundaram**

George Town Literary Festival presents 1-1 conversations with authors currently making waves in world literature. GTLF Festival Co-Director Sharaad Kuttan speaks to Jomo Kwame Sundaram in this special session.

Speaker: Jomo Kwame Sundaram

Moderator: Sharaad Kuttan

Screening: **Mencari Rahmat**

Al Jafree Md Yusop wrote and directed this interpretation of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* starring Nam Ron and Amerul Affendi. The film, which has garnered plenty of praise from Malay media, is set for a 2020 release. Meet the director and watch a special screening of the film ahead of the rest of the country!

Director: Al Jafree Md Yusop

GTLF Storytelling: **Raymond Miranda**

Raymond Miranda extolled the virtues of storytelling in the field of technology. Join us as he presents an excerpt from his lecture performance "Story, Disruption and the Free Associations of a Genius Dying".

Reader: Raymond Miranda

23 November Saturday



Special Event



Discussion



Conversation



Talk



Venue



Book Launch



Screening



Reading



Workshop

2:00 pm - 3:20 pm



Ground Floor,
UAB Building

2:00 pm - 3:20 pm



Level 1,
UAB Building

2:20 pm - 3:40 pm



Hikayat Blue,
Hikayat

Discussion:
“Give me your tired, your huddled masses...”

The spectacle of mass human exodus was all too familiar in the 20th Century and remains with us in the 21st. Syrians fled civil war into Europe, a million Rohingya encamped in Bangladesh awaiting an uncertain return. While the international community counsels a humanitarian response, host nations come under immense strain – both materially and emotionally. What cultural impact will these mass exoduses make?

Speakers: Lukas Rietzschel, Lilianne Fan, Mwaffaq Hajjar

Moderator: Suhaimi Sulaiman

Discussion:
The Glint of Light on Broken Glass

Anton Chekhov once said on the art of writing, “Don’t tell me the moon is shining, show me the glint of light on broken glass”. How do writers cultivate a unique way of telling that sets their work apart from others? How do they discover a narrative voice and create distinctive imagery that encapsulates what they want to say?

Speakers: Fahmi Mustaffa, Charlotte Van den Broeck, Hanna Alkaf

Moderator: Christine Edwards

Book Launch:
Island Secrets

Beyond the Bali known from idyllic images of Hollywood movies and five-star resort holidays are the secret lives of men and women who flock to the island from around the world in search of new beginnings. Not all find the bliss and peace they hope for. *Island Secrets* is a collection of stories of lives fraught with scandal, conflict, heartache and despair.

Author: Alwin Blum



Special Event



Discussion



Conversation



Talk



Venue



Book Launch



Screening



Reading



Workshop

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm



Level 1,
Black Kettle

GTLF Readings: **Eliot Weinberger**

Hear the words spoken by the very writers who penned them! GTLF Readings is an opportunity to listen to select authors at GTLF read their works.

Reader: Eliot Weinberger

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm



The Nook Books &
Coffee

GTLF Readings: **Goenawan Mohamad & Sapardi Djoko Damono**

Hear the words spoken by the very writers who penned them! GTLF Readings is an opportunity to listen to select authors at GTLF read their works.

Readers: Goenawan Mohamad,
Sapardi Djoko Damono

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm



Copper,
88 Armenian

GTLF Readings: **Dina Zaman**

Hear the words spoken by the very writers who penned them! GTLF Readings is an opportunity to listen to select authors at GTLF read their works.

Reader: Dina Zaman

23 November Saturday



Special Event



Discussion



Conversation



Talk



Venue



Book Launch



Screening



Reading



Workshop

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm



Level 1,
Black Kettle

Special Event: Voices 2019

With the belief that writing is a powerful tool for healing and storytelling, with the dedication to give space and amplify stories told by women, and with the hope of cultivating strong voices that honour the complex expanses of women's lived realities in today's society, the VOICES program is a platform to inspire and propel women to claim their stories for themselves. VOICES is a Penang-based writing program, first conceptualized by a team of passionate individuals within the Penang Women's Development Corporation (PWDC), the program has since transitioned out of PWDC and into the supportive hands of YB Syerleena Rashid. This year, the VOICES workshop is funded by KADUN Seri Delima and organized and curated by Rubi Maheswaran with Bernice Chauly, Rubi Maheswaran and Dhiyanah Hassan as facilitators.

4:00 pm - 5:20 pm



Hikayat Blue,
Hikayat

Book Launch: A Flutter in the Colony

In 1956, the Senguptas arrive in George Town on a ship from Calcutta to forget the horrors of famine and Partition in Bengal. They quickly settle in a small town in Negri Sembilan. In their new hamlet of anonymity, the couple integrate into the local life and stumble upon a happy interlude of normalcy, peace and carnal joy. But Malaya is a complex, racially charged society on the brink of independence even as communist insurgents hover. Can the couple survive their gradual entanglement in a web of complex local feuds and aspirations as the nation approaches Merdeka? Shuttling in time and temper between this small Malayan plantation town and the anguish-filled decade of pre-Partition Bengal, *A Flutter in the Colony* is a tender chronicle of a family struggling to remain together in the twilight of Empire across two nations.

Author: Sandeep Ray

4:00 pm - 5:20 pm



Ground Floor,
UAB Building

Discussion: The Chinese Century

We reflect on China's past 100 years, paying particular attention to the May Fourth Movement of 1919, the Communist Revolution of 1949, and the Tiananmen Square protests and massacre of 1989. How do these moments in history resonate with contemporary Chinese intellectuals, writers, and the young generation?

Speakers: Xi Chuan, Rebecca E. Karl, Karoline Kan

Moderator: Tee Kim Tong



Special Event



Discussion



Conversation



Talk



Venue



Book Launch



Screening



Reading



Workshop

4:00 pm - 5:20 pm



Level 1,
UAB Building

5:00 pm - 6:30 pm



Level 1,
Black Kettle

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm



The Nook Books &
Coffee

Discussion: **Ada Apa Dengan Kisah**

Penceritaan adalah teras pelbagai seni, bukan sahaja karya sastera, tetapi juga karya filem dan teater, bahkan rencana akhbar dan majalah. Apakah cabaran utama yang dihadapi oleh penulis dalam proses pembentukan cerita, sama ada kisah benar atau cereka? Apakah kaedah mencipta watak, jalan cerita, dan suasana yang sesuai dan dapat menghidupkan sesebuah hasil tulisan?

Speakers: Al Jafree Md Yusop, Lokman Hakim, Zin Mahmud, Fa Abdul

Moderator: Izzuddin Ramli

Reading: **Shophouse: Readings from the Master's Writing Workshops of LASALLE College of the Arts**

LASALLE College of the Arts is the premier art college in Singapore and home to its first dedicated Creative Writing master's degree. Our students publish regularly in Best Asian Short Stories, Best Singaporean Short Stories and elsewhere. They read annually at the Singapore Writers Festival and the Australasian Association of Writing Programs annual conference. Come here tomorrow's writers today. With special guests from the University of Nottingham Malaysia.

GTLF Storytelling: **Kamini Ramachandran**

Nobody can quite tell a story the way Kamini Ramachandran does. Come over and listen to Kamini as she regales audiences with her repertoire of Asian folklore and myths for adult audiences. Listen to jungle tales of the mysterious orang utan, stories of abducted girls and tales without an ending.

Age Advisory:
15 years and above

Reader: Kamini Ramachandran

23 November Saturday



Special Event



Discussion



Conversation



Talk



Venue



Book Launch



Screening



Reading



Workshop

5:30 pm - 6:20 pm



Level 1,
UAB Building

5:30 pm - 6:50 pm



Ground Floor,
UAB Building

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm



Event Hall,
Loft 29

GTLF Conversations: **Perumal Murugan**

George Town Literary Festival presents 1-1 conversations with authors currently making waves in world literature. Eddin Khoo speaks to acclaimed Indian author Perumal Murugan in this special session.

Speaker: Perumal Murugan

Moderator: Eddin Khoo

Discussion: **Mencari Chairil?**

Dunia sajak Melayu sejak beberapa dekad lalu dibayangi oleh Chairil Anwar. Penyair sesudahnya dikatakan sama ada mahu menjadi Chairil atau bergelut untuk melepaskan diri daripada pengaruhnya. Apakah penyair besar itu masih menjadi ukuran pada hari ini dan masihkah kita mencari penyair yang begitu mempengaruhi pengucapan bahasa sepertinya?

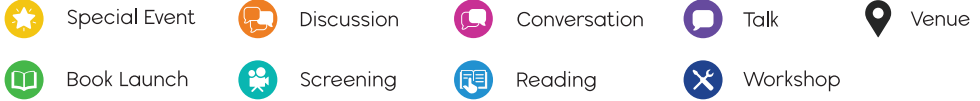
Speakers: Hafiz Hamzah, Nana, Norman Erikson Pasaribu, Jack Malik

Moderator: Al-Mustaqeem M. Radhi

Special Event: **No Coattails, We're Tropical!**

Join us as our festival's illustrious line-up of writers, supporters, custodians of the state, and members of the media connect and dine together while pondering upon past, present and future editions of literary festivals at home and abroad.

Admission by registration only.



7:00 pm - 11:00 pm



Screening: **If Beale Street Could Talk**

Based on James Baldwin's novel, and set in early-1970s Harlem, *If Beale Street Could Talk* is a timeless and moving love story of both a couple's unbreakable bond and the African-American family's empowering embrace.

Screening: **I Am Not Your Negro**

Director Raoul Peck envisions the book James Baldwin never finished – a radical narration about race in America, using the writer's original words.

These screenings are brought to you by KakiKINO @ Hikayat Film Club as part of their season on Literary Adaptations to Film (Lit AF)!

8:00 pm - 9:30 pm



Special Event: **Night of a Thousand Words**

Are you ready for some serious finger-snapping? Imagine a night of spoken word poetry opening with the warm and sensitive soul of a Malaysia National Slam Poetry winner, and closing with Penang's fiercest lawyer-poet and long-time human rights champion. We take our traditional poetry marathon up a notch with a night of spoken word featuring all-star poets coming together to read and celebrate literature!

Readers: Cecil Rajendra, Nana, Mwaffaq, Jack Malik, Dhinesha, Preetipls, Subhas

8:00 pm - 9:30 pm









Book Launch: **What I Saw In Malaya**

The core of *What I Saw In Malaya: Lectures 1934-1938* is a series of Radio Paris lectures by French ethnologist Jeanne Cuisinier on her experience of living in Malaya, principally in Kelantan, in the early 1930s. She candidly and affectionately talks about the people, customs, culture and of course food. Some of the things described can no longer be seen today, such as her vivid account of a large-scale, all-night wayang kulit performance that attracted a crowd from all over.

Author: Jeanne Cuisinier

24 November Sunday

-  Ground Floor, UAB Building
-  Hikayat Blue, Hikayat
-  Canteen, China House
-  Level 1, UAB Building
-  Level 1, Black Kettle
-  Audiovisual Room, MOTAC Office

09:00am

10:00am

11:00am

12:00pm

01:00pm

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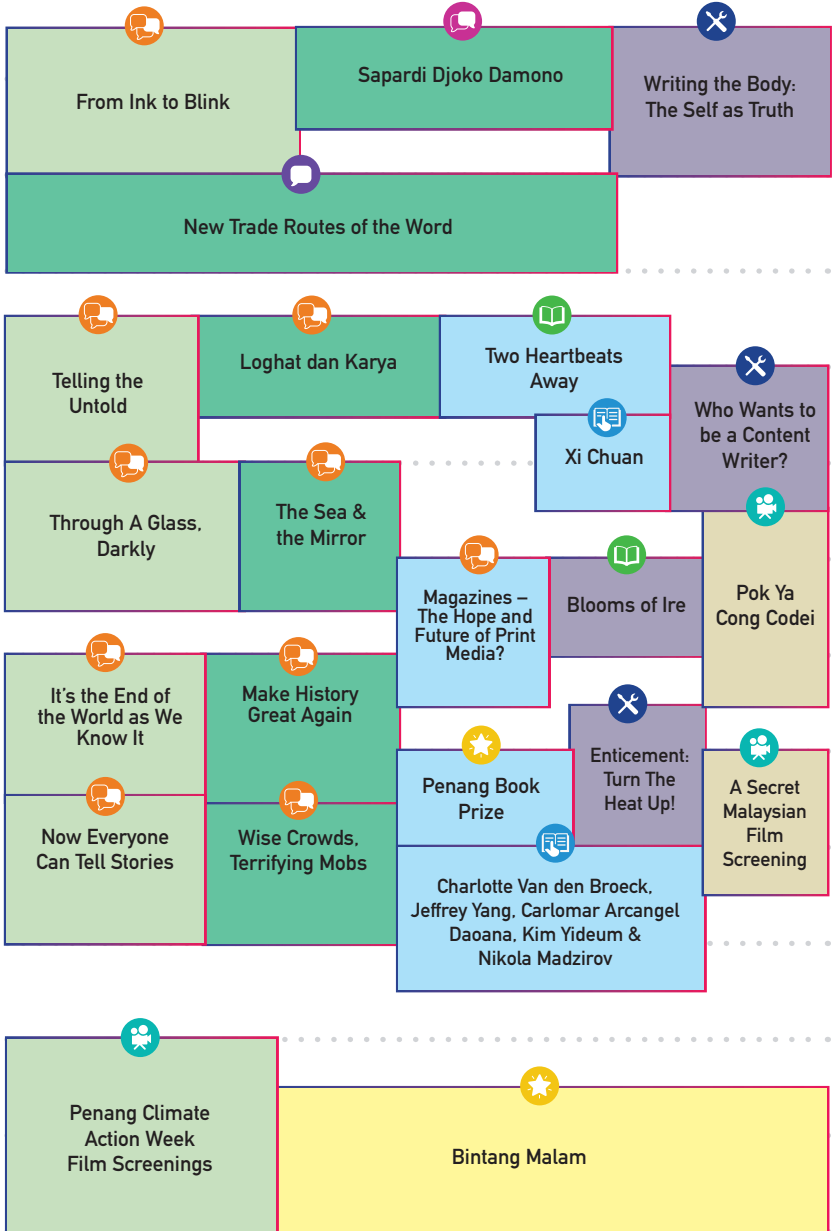
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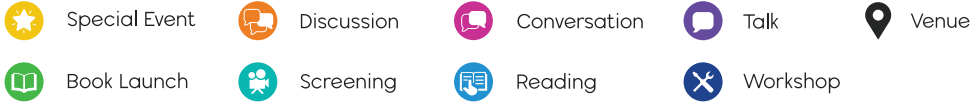
07:00pm

08:00pm

09:00pm

10:00pm





9:30 am - 10:20 am



GTLF Conversations: **Sapardi Djoko Damono**

George Town Literary Festival presents 1-1 conversations with authors currently making waves in world literature. Melissa Idris speaks to celebrated Indonesian poet Sapardi Djoko Damono in this special session.

Speaker: Sapardi Djoko Damono

Moderator: Melisa Idris

9:30 am - 10:50 am



Discussion: **From Ink to Blink**

Reading is the heart of publishing's business proposition but as reading habits change, what challenges will it pose for the industry? Is it true that marketing and platforms directed at readers as consumer will become the real publishing game? Will a consumer culture of personalization and digitally-driven social engagement with creators and 'communities' determine which publishers succeed and which fail?

Speakers: Jeffrey Yang, Jennifer Kronovet, Kannan Sundaram

Moderator: Christine Edwards

9:30 am - 11:00 am



Workshop: **Writing the Body: The Self as Truth**

As contemporary Asian women, we are still constrained by taboos, cultural and religious dictates, and the male gaze, which continue to define feminine narratives, and how we write about our bodies. H  l  ne Cixous, the French-Algerian essayist, dramatist, poet and feminist theorist said in her seminal essay, *The Laugh of the Medusa*, "Woman must write herself: must write about women and bring women to writing, from which they have been driven away as violently as from their bodies." This workshop will look at poetic ways in which we write about the body; as landscape, memory and truth, in writing the self through the bodies we live in.

Age Advisory:
17 years and above

Facilitator: Bernice Chauly

Fees: RM100 per participant

24 November Sunday



Special Event



Discussion



Conversation



Talk



Venue



Book Launch



Screening



Reading



Workshop

11:00 am - 12:00 pm



Level 1,
UAB Building

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm



Level 1,
UAB Building

12:30 pm - 1:50 pm



Ground Floor,
UAB Building

Lecture: New Trade Routes of the Word

Literature moves through underground channels, often regardless of the economic and geopolitical currents above, yet the old routes of trade—East and West, North and South—have persisted. We may well be at a beginning where new charts of contact can be drawn, lines that do not necessarily run through the West/ North: East and South, East within the vast East, and, in individual nations, from the outside in, as the oral enters into and revitalizes the written.

Speaker: Eliot Weinberger

Perbincangan: Loghat dan Karya

Bahasa Melayu sarat dengan loghat daerah yang mengungkapkan pandangan dunia dan gaya pertuturan harian sesebuah masyarakat setempat. Perbualan ini menampilkan dua orang pelakon, sutradara dan penulis terkenal, Sabri Yunus dan Nam Ron, untuk membincang penerapan loghat daerah dalam pengkaryaan seni.

Panelis: Sabri Yunus, Nam Ron

Moderator: Eddin Khoo

Discussion: Telling the Untold

Fiction is not simply a matter of make-believe; it tells us another side of 'truth'. How do authors challenge official histories and hegemonic narratives through fiction? How can fiction become a vessel to tell untold stories, reimagine history, and rewrite the world?

Speakers: Hamid Ismailov, Saras Manickam, Lukas Rietzschel

Moderator: Kam Raslan



Special Event



Discussion



Conversation



Talk



Venue



Book Launch



Screening



Reading



Workshop

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm



Level 1,
Black Kettle

Book Launch: **Two Heartbeats Away**

Two Heartbeats Away is a collection of poems by KS Maniam covering persona, social and political issues.

Author: KS Maniam

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm



Hikayat Blue,
Hikayat

Workshop: **Who Wants To Be A Content Writer?**

Increasingly authors and journalists are being asked by publishing companies and the press to provide 'content'... can this form of writing be creative? Can it be investigative? Can it ask questions? Or just provide bland 'pr-information'? I have contributed over the last 5 years to several Lonely Planet themed books - from Wine Routes to a World Chocolate Tour - some complex stories to tell here. For the Guardian, in addition to regularly writing independent editorial pieces, I also hide my head in shame by occasionally providing texts for paid advertising supplements in the newspaper. Does the reader see the difference?

Facilitator: John Brunton

Fees: RM60 per participant

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm



Level 1,
Black Kettle

GTLF Readings: **Xi Chuan**

Hear the words spoken by the very writers who penned them! GTLF Readings is an opportunity to listen to select authors at GTLF read their works.

Reader: Xi Chuan

24 November Sunday



Special Event



Discussion



Conversation



Talk



Venue



Book Launch



Screening



Reading



Workshop

2:00 pm - 3:20 pm



Ground Floor,
UAB Building

Discussion: **Through A Glass, Darkly**

The date May 13, 1969 has long been memorialised as a national trauma albeit one best 'buried and forgotten'. On its 50th anniversary this year, attempts to engage with this moment in history was largely muted. Can our imaginative powers, anchored in the conditions of the past, help us redeem the collective pain for an alternative vision of the nation?

Speakers: Hanna Alkaf, Ho Sok Fong, Jomo Kwame Sundaram

Moderator: Melissa Idris

2:00 pm - 3:20 pm



Level 1,
UAB Building

Discussion: **The Sea and the Mirror**

Poetry charts outer topographies and inner landscapes in a language of storms, shadows, and silence. We speak to poets who voyage into the sea of the unknown and encounter the mirror of the self. What is the process by which an experience becomes a poem?

Speakers: Nikola Madzirov, Kim Yideum, Charlotte Van den Broeck, Carlomar Arcangel Daoana

Moderator: Pauline Fan

2:30 pm - 4:30 pm



Audiovisual Room,
MOTAC Office

Screening: **Pok Ya Cong Codei**

Rarely does a local telemovie achieve cult status as Pok Ya Cong Codei! The film follows Pok Ya, a "gedebe" (gangster) from the Malaysian east coast state of Kelantan, as he searches for an old friend's daughter who was kidnapped while in Kuala Lumpur.

Director: Sabri Yunus



Special Event



Discussion



Conversation



Talk



Venue



Book Launch



Screening



Reading



Workshop

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm



Hikayat Blue,
Hikayat

Book Launch: **Blooms of Ire**

Blooms of Ire is an examination of passion as the blood of life – the underlying current behind a heated glance, a passive gesture, a memory from a time long ago. Blooms examines living in its essence and peeks into entire lifetimes, imagined and real.

Author: Hafiz Hamzah

3:00 pm - 4:20 pm



Level 1,
Black Kettle

Discussion: **Magazines – The Hope and Future of Print Media?**

The immediacy of digital media has proved extremely successful in not only attracting readers, but also in changing their reading habits and expectations. However, the rumours of the death of print media have turned out to be highly exaggerated. The longing for sound analyses and comprehensive information runs deep, and has been growing. Will the periodical therefore be the saviour of print media?

Speakers: Goenawan Mohamad, Ooi Kee Beng, Dhvani Solani

Moderator: Julia Tan

4:00 pm - 5:20 pm



Ground Floor,
UAB Building

Discussion: **It's the End of the World as We Know It**

Sci-fi, fantasy, surrealism and speculative fiction open up endless possibilities of how we imagine our past, present and future. How do writers harness their wild imaginations to create a believable work that defies our known reality?

Speakers: Lokman Hakim, Tiffany Tsao, Jason Erik Lundberg

Moderator: Ann Lee

24 November Sunday



Special Event



Discussion



Conversation



Talk



Venue



Book Launch



Screening



Reading



Workshop

4:00 pm - 5:20 pm



Level 1,
UAB Building

Discussion:

Make History Great Again

From China to India and through to Turkey, the re-telling of national histories are coupled to the consolidation of state power. Can a deeper understanding of the labour of historians help us better negotiate these “fake histories” and resist their seductions, without failing for easy, if seemingly progressive, alternative narratives? Can we draw simple lessons from complex and complexly told histories?

Speakers: Rebecca E. Karl, Sumit Mandal

Moderator: Sharaad Kuttan

4:30 pm - 6:00 pm



Hikayat Blue,
Hikayat

Workshop:

Enticement: Turn the Heat Up on Every Page

Erotic fiction has been around for centuries but, in recent years, has become defined by the Fifty Shades of Grey malaise. If you have ever toyed with the idea of writing erotica but don't know where to begin, this workshop will give you tips on how to write lush sex stories with skill and grace. So come on, dive in and have fun!

Facilitator: Ameena Hussein

Fees: RM80 per participant

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm












Level 1,
Black Kettle

Special Event:

Penang Book Prize 2019

Inaugurated in 2017, the Penang Book Prize (the only one of its kind in Malaysia!) returns to award the best book across the nation. This year, the prize sets its sight on works of non-fiction published in the last 3 years.

Facilitator: Penang Monthly

-  Special Event
-  Discussion
-  Conversation
-  Talk
-  Venue
-  Book Launch
-  Screening
-  Reading
-  Workshop

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

- 
- 
- Audiovisual Room,
MOTAC Office

Screening: **A Secret Malaysian Film Screening**

Keeping with GTLF's long-running tradition, there will be a secret film screening at this year's festival! You don't want to miss this -- movies we've screened (secretly) in the past include Dain Said's Interchange and Zahim Albakri's Spilt Rice on Gravy, ahead of their Malaysian release dates.

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

- 
- 
- Level 1,
UAB Building

Discussion: **Wise Crowds, Terrifying Mobs**

We draw on the collective wisdom of our invited guests and friends to grapple with censorious power of governments and interest groups. What is the writer, the thinker, the performer to do in an era when hate and fear are used so effectively to silence and punish? Will solidarity help us create, preserve, extend or protect our freedoms?

Facilitators: Faisal Tehrani, Kannan Sundaram, Bernice Chauly, Subhas

5:30 pm - 6:50 pm

- 
- 
- Ground Floor,
UAB Building

Discussion: **Now Everyone Can Tell Stories**

Today the expression "story-teller" is being appropriated by so many professions and for so many purposes, is it in danger of losing its meaning or has everyone discovered it's power? What is the essence of the story that makes it a powerful tool for personal and social transformation, for giving meaning and purpose to community and industry? We consider the joys of storification.

Speakers: Lur Alghurabi, Kamini Ramachandran, Raymond Miranda

Moderator: Tehmina Kaoosji

24 November Sunday



Special Event



Discussion



Conversation



Talk



Venue



Book Launch



Screening



Reading



Workshop

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm



Level 1,
Black Kettle

8:00 pm - 9:50 pm



The Lounge,
UAB Building

8:30 pm - 10:00 pm



Canteen,
China House

GTLF Readings: **Charlotte Van den Broeck, Carlomar Arcangel Daoana, Jeffrey Yang, Kim Yideum, & Nikola Madzirov**

Hear the words spoken by the very writers who penned them! GTLF Readings is an opportunity to listen to select authors at GTLF read their works.

Readers: Charlotte Van den Broeck, Carlomar Arcangel Daoana, Jeffrey Yang, Kim Yideum, Nikola Madzirov

Screening: **The Fight for Kelantan's Forests**

The biggest Orang Asli tribe, the Temiar people, are seeing their homes and livelihood being destroyed by state-approved logging companies. Failing to get a response from the state for their plight, they are resorting to setting up blockades to obstruct logging companies.

Screening: **Sunset Over Selungo**

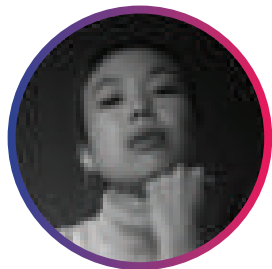
Hunting for breakfast and living without internet might be difficult to imagine for most of us. From a remote village, deep in the rainforest of Borneo, comes an inspiring true story about freedom and belonging.

*These screenings are brought to you by Think City in conjunction with **Penang Climate Action Week!***

Special Event: **Bintang Malam**

We cap off another year of GTLF with our closing tradition: live music and plenty of merriment at China House! This year, WVC Jazz Ensemble and Eddin Khoo conjure an unforgettable evening of farewells and new beginnings.

Festival Speakers



Amanda Lee Koe

Amanda Lee Koe is a Singaporean writer. Formerly the fiction editor of Esquire Singapore, she is an honorary fellow of the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa, and the youngest winner of the Singapore Literature Prize for the story collection Ministry of Moral Panic (2013). The working manuscript for her debut novel, Delayed Rays of a Star (2019), won the Henfield Prize, awarded to the best work of fiction by a graduating MFA candidate at Columbia University. Born in Singapore, Amanda lives in New York.



Adriana Nordin Manan

Adriana is a writer, playwright, translator and researcher. Born, raised and based in Kuala Lumpur, she is passionate about storytelling and the expanse of stories as bridges across cultures, imaginations and human desires. Adriana is working on her first full-length play, and her writing has been performed in Malaysia, Singapore and New York City. Trilingual in Malay, English and Spanish, Adriana has a Masters in Politics from New York University. She is also a graduate of Colby College and the United World Colleges (UWC) movement. She was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Short Story Prize 2019 for her translation of a short story by Lokman Hakim.



Al Jafree Md Yusop

Al Jafree is a film writer and director. He co-wrote the feature films Paloh (2002) and Dukun (2002) and recently wrote and directed the Mencari Rahmat (2018), a local adaptation of Oscar Wilde's The Importance of Being Earnest. He has written many telemovies including Sumbangsih (1999), Teman Malam (2002), Senandong Malam (2008) and Tulus Ikhlas (2016). He also wrote and directed Melur Vs Rajawali (2015) and Kembara Nak Dara (2016). Al Jafree also founded Komuniti Filem Titiwangsa, a community of filmmakers and cinephiles which advocates local films.



Ameena Hussein

Ameena Hussein is a Sri Lankan sociologist, writer and editor. She has published two collections of short stories, one novel, edited three children's books, one book of erotica and many essays on current affairs in journals and newspapers. Her debut novel *The Moon in the Water* (2009) was long-listed for the first Man Asian Literary Award in 2007. Ameena is co-founder of the Perera Hussein Publishing House which publishes Sri Lankan fiction and non-fiction. Her travelogue following the fourteenth century Moroccan traveller Ibn Battuta in Sri Lanka, will be published in November 2019.



Bernice Chauly

Bernice is a Malaysian novelist, poet and educator. Born in George Town, Penang, she read Education and English Literature in Canada as a government scholar. She is the author of seven books of poetry and prose which include *The Book of Sins* (2008), the acclaimed memoir *Growing Up With Ghosts* (2011), *Onkalo* (2013), and *Incantations/Incarcerations* (2019). Her debut novel *Once We Were There* (2017), set against the Malaysian Reformasi of 1998, won the inaugural Penang Book Prize 2017 and the Readers' Choice Awards 2018 in fiction. A founding member of PEN Malaysia, she runs the KL Writers Workshop and was former Festival Director of the George Town Literary Festival.



Carlomar Arcangel Daoana

Carlomar was born in the City of Manila in 1979. He is the author of five collections of poetry, his most recent being *The Elegant Ghost*, published by the University of the Philippines Press in 2019. Internationally, his poems have been anthologised in the *Vagabond Asia Pacific Poetry Series* (Sydney and Tokyo) and *Naratif Kisah* (Kuala Lumpur) and featured in a chapbook series produced as part of the 2018 Literature Forum About Southeast Asia in Taiwan. A columnist in the Arts and Culture section of *The Philippine Star*, Daoana teaches creative writing and fine arts courses at the Fine Arts Department of the Ateneo de Manila University.



Charlotte Van den Broeck

Charlotte is a Belgian poet born in Turnhout, Belgium, who rose to acclaim for her critically-acclaimed poetry collections *Kameleon* (2015) and *Nachtroer* (2017). Her latest work, *Waagstukken* (2019), is a collection of essays on architecture and suicide. She studied English and German, and later undertook a Masters in Drama at the Royal Conservatoire in Antwerp. Her works have been translated into Arabic, English, French, German, Serbian and Spanish. Charlotte is known for her style of presenting live poetry which is distinct from the US/UK form of spoken word. She performs in Dutch as well as English.

Charlotte Van den Broeck is supported by Flanders Literature.



Darrel McLeod

Darrel is a Cree writer from treaty eight territory in Northern Alberta. Before his retirement, he was chief negotiator of land claims for the federal government and executive director of education and international affairs with the Assembly of First Nations. Darrel holds degrees in French literature and Education from the University of British Columbia. He debuted with *Mamaskatch* (2018), a memoir of his childhood raised by his mother Bertha who is a residential school survivor. *Mamaskatch* won the 2018 Governor General's Literary Award for nonfiction. Darrel is currently working on his first work of fiction and a memoir which picks up from where *Mamaskatch* left off.

Darrel McLeod is supported by the Canadian High Commission.



Dhinesha Karthigesu

Dhinesha is a storyteller, writer and coach. His work, which explores the ideas of love and identity, has toured Peninsular Malaysia and has also been published in KL's first spoken word anthology 'When I Say Spoken, You Say Word' (2018). In 2018, Dhinesha was crowned Malaysia's first National Poetry Slam Champion at the George Town Literary Festival. His credits include writing the play *Silk & Strings: The Truth of Bullying* (2017), performing in *Malaysia Throws Herself A Birthday Party* (2017). He was most recently co-producer and artistic director of *The Human Exhibit: Sex&Gender* (2019).



Dhvani Solani

Dhvani is an author and writer based in Mumbai. Her writing has appeared in publications such as GQ, Grazia, Hindustan Times and Harper's Bazaar. She has spent over a decade presenting travel, culture, food, lifestyle, and subversive countercultures to the world in unique ways. Dhvani is the author of *Run!* which is set for a November 2019 release. She is also the Associate Editor of VICE Asia.

Dhvani Solani is supported by Penang Institute.



Elaine Chiew

Elaine is a writer and a visual arts researcher. Twice winner of the Bridport Short Story Competition, she has published numerous stories in anthologies in the UK, US and Singapore. Elaine is the editor of *Cooked Up: Food Fiction From Around the World* (2015) and author of the upcoming *The Heartsick Diaspora*, and other stories (2019). Originally from Malaysia, she graduated from Stanford Law School and worked as a corporate securities lawyer in New York and Hong Kong before earning an MA in Asian Art History. Elaine currently lives in Singapore.



Eliot Weinberger

Eliot is a contemporary American writer, political commentator, essayist, editor, and translator. He is the translator of the poetry of Bei Dao, and the editor of *The New Directions Anthology of Classical Chinese Poetry* (2003). He is best known as the primary translator of Octavio Paz's (Nobel prize winning writer, poet and diplomat) works into English. His edition of Jorge Luis Borges's *Selected Non-Fictions* (1999) received the National Book Critics Circle prize for criticism. In 1992, he was the first recipient of the PEN/Kolovakos Award for his promotion of Hispanic literature in the United States. In 2000, he became the only American literary writer to be awarded the Order of the Aztec Eagle by the Government of Mexico.



Fa Abdul

Fa is a Penang-based writer who juggles playwriting, journalism and filmmaking. A BOH Cameronian Arts Awards winner passionate for the performing arts industry, she co-founded Big Nose Productions and is known for her works *Shakespeare Goes Bollywood*, *Tales from the Bedroom* and *Sex in Georgetown City*. Fa is also columnist for *Malaysiakini*, media trainer with the Goethe-Institut of Myanmar and scriptwriter for Radio Television Malaysia (RTM). She recently published her first book, "So Fa So Good".



Fahmi Mustaffa

Fahmi is a Malaysian writer, translator and visual artist born in Terengganu but based in Penang. Formerly a lecturer in biology at UiTM, his fiction boldly explore topics which are deemed sensitive in Malaysia, such as homosexuality and religion. His writings include *Laknat* (2015), *Suatu Hari Nanti Manusia Akan Melupakan Tuhan* (2016), *Amsterdam* (2017), and *Manusia* (2019), which he co-wrote with Regina Ibrahim. His most recent work was *Di Situ Langit Dijunjung* (2019), a Malay translation of Hanna Alkaf's acclaimed debut novel set against the racial riots of 1969.



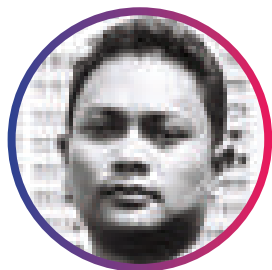
Faisal Tehrani

Faisal is an academic, writer and playwright from Kuala Lumpur. Often targeted by religious extremists for his ideas, he was deemed a controversial figure under the previous regime which resulted in the banning of seven of his books. Faisal is a prolific writer known for *Cinta Hari-hari Rusuhan* (2000), *1515* (2003) and the recently released *The Professor* (2019), an English translation of his 2017 novel by Brigitte Bresson. His writings have also been adapted into stage plays and a television series. Most of his academic works are focused on human rights, a theme which features prominently in his fiction. He received a National Arts Award in 2006 and has a PhD in Comparative Literature from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.



Goenawan Mohamad

Goenawan is an Indonesian writer, journalist and painter. In 1971, he co-founded *Tempo*, an Indonesian weekly that covers news and politics. He has published several books of essays such as his well-known *Catatan Pinggir*, short notes on ideas and politics that has been collected into 12 volumes. Goenawan's other works include three librettos for operas, five plays, and a short novel titled *The Woman Who Dreamt of Three Birds* (2019). He is known for his advocacy towards the power of the press and the importance of free speech, and his awards include the Dan David Prize 2006, the International Editor of the Year Award 1999 and the CPJ International Press Freedom Awards 1998. He recently released his eighth book of poetry, *Tigris* (2019), alongside his poems on *Don Quixote*.



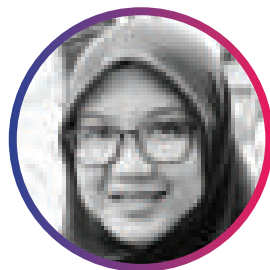
Hafiz Hamzah

Hafiz is a Penang-born poet, writer and journalist based in Kuala Lumpur. He has published two collections of poetry, *Malakalis* (2014) and *Gertak Sanggul* (2016). An English translation of his second book of poetry is due in 2019. He is the founding editor of *Obscura Malaysia*, an independent publishing house in Kuala Lumpur.



Hamid Ismailov

Hamid is an Uzbek journalist and writer based in the UK who writes in Russian and Uzbek. He was forced to flee Uzbekistan in 1992 due to what the state dubbed 'unacceptable democratic tendencies'. Translations of his work include the novels *The Railway* (2007), *The Underground* (2013), and *The Dead Lake* (2014). His novel *The Devils' Dance* (2019), initially published chapter by chapter in a series of Facebook posts, is the first major Uzbek work translated into English. It won the 2019 EBRD Literature Prize. Hamid was formerly a journalist with the BBC World Service for 25 years. His books are banned in his home country.



Hanna Alkaf

Hanna wrote for clients and a prominent Malaysian magazine before she took a turn towards creative writing. She is the author of *GILA: A Journey Through Moods and Madness* (2016) as well as the young adult novel *The Weight of Our Sky* (2019) which was published under an imprint of Simon & Schuster. Her debut middle-grade novel, *The Girl & The Ghost* will be published by Harper Collins in 2020. Hanna's short story 'The Tryouts' earned her the DK Dutt Memorial Award For Literacy Excellence in 2015.

Hanna Alkaf is supported by Buku Fixi.



Harry Aveling

Harry Aveling is a translator and scholar of South and Southeast Asian literatures. Over five decades, he has translated extensively from Indonesian and Malay, including works by Rendra, Pramoedya Ananta Toer, Iwan Simatupang, A. Samad Said, Ishak Haji Muhammad and Shahnnon Ahmad. He recently published *Perceptions: Essays on Translation and Literature of the Malay World* (2019). In 1991 he received the Anugerah Pengembangan Sastra Esso-Gapena, 'in recognition of his commitment to furthering the understanding of Malay literature in the international community'.



Hiromi Ito

Hiromi Ito is one of the most prominent writers of Japan. Debuting in the 1970s, she is known for her exploration of feminism, migrant culture and shamanism in her writings. She has won many Japanese literary prizes including the Noma Literary Prize for New Writers, Takami Jun Prize, Hagiwara Sakutarō Prize and Izumi Shikibu Prize. She is currently teaching at the School of Culture, Media and Society in Waseda University, Tokyo. Hiromi is best known for *Kusakinō Sora* (1978), *La Niña* (1999), and *Toge-nuki: Shin Sugamo Jizō engi* (2007). English translations of her poetry are available in *Killing Kanoko: Selected Poems of Hiromi Ito* (2009), while *Wild Grass on a Riverbank* (2015) is a translation of her award-winning book-length poem *Kawara Arekusa* (2005).

Hiromi Ito is supported by the Japan Foundation.



Ho Sok Fong

Sok Fong is a writer from Kedah. She holds a PhD in Chinese Language & Literature from NTU Singapore and previously worked as an engineer in an electronics factory, a features writer for a Chinese newspaper, and lecturer in Chinese Studies at a local university. Her works include *Maze Carpet* (2012) and *Lake Like a Mirror* (2014), which has been translated into English for release in 2019. Sok Fong's short stories have garnered her the China Times Jury Award and the Taiwan United News Jury Award. She received the Taiwan National Culture & Arts Foundation grant in 2016 to support the completion of her first novel.



Jack Malik

Jack is a passionate spoken word artist and poet who has been performing since 2015. He is bilingual, switching between Malay and English in his poetry. He was part of the Malaysian winning team at the 2016 Causeway Exchange Poetry Slam which saw Malaysian and Singaporean poets compete against each other. Affiliated with Projek Rabak and Ipoh: City of Love, Jack recently published his debut poetry book, *Wannabe Sasau* (2019) under Rabak-Lit. His works have also been included in various zines and poetry anthologies such as *Hundred/Hundred: Home* (2017), *Tukang Puisi: 55 Penyair Muda Malaysia* (2018), and *When I Say Spoken, You Say Word* (2018).



Jason Erik Lundberg

Jason is the author and anthologist of over twenty books, including *Fish Eats Lion* (2012), *The Alchemy of Happiness* (2012), *Strange Mammals* (2013), and *Embracing the Strange* (2013). He is also the fiction editor at Epigram Books since 2012, as well as the founding editor of *LONTAR: The Journal of Southeast Asian Speculative Fiction* (2012–2018). Born in Brooklyn, Jason has been based in Singapore since 2007. He holds a Master's degree in creative writing from North Carolina State University and is an active member of PEN America.



Jeffrey Yang

Jeffrey Yang is a writer, literary translator and editor based in New York City. His works include *An Aquarium* (2008), *Vanishing-Line* (2011), and *Hey, Marfa* (2018). He translated Su Shi's *East Slope* (2008), Liu Xiaobo's *June Fourth Elegies* (2012), and Bei Dao's autobiography *City Gate, Open Up* (2017). Jeffrey also collaborated with writer Ahmatjan Osman to translate the latter's *Uyghurland, The Farthest Exile* (2014). In 2009 he won the PEN/Joyce Osterweil Award, which is given biennially to an emerging American poet. Yang works as an editor at New Directions Publishing and New York Review Books.



Jennifer Kronovet

Jennifer Kronovet is the author of two poetry collections, *The Wug Test* (2016), which was selected for the National Poetry Series in the US, and *Awayward* (2009). Using the name Jennifer Stern, she co-translated *Empty Chairs* (2015), the poetry of Chinese writer Liu Xia. She also co-translated *The Acrobat*, which features selected poems by experimental Yiddish writer Cecilia Dropkin. She is the editor of *Circumference Books*, a new press for poetry in translation, and has just completed a novel about women martial artists. She has lived in Beijing, Chicago, and New York where she was born and raised.



Jokha Alharthi

Jokha Alharthi is an Omani writer and academic. She is the author of several books including two children's books and three novels in Arabic. Jokha has written multiple short stories that have been translated into English, Serbian, Korean, Italian and German. Her third novel *Narinjah* (2016) received the Sultan Qaboos Award for Culture, Arts and Literature. 2019 saw a historic win for Jokha as she became the first Omani woman and Arabic writer to win the Man Booker International Prize for her novel *Celestial Bodies* (2018).



Jomo Kwame Sundaram

Jomo is a prominent Malaysian economist. He holds the Tun Hussein Onn Chair in International Studies at the Institute of Strategic and International Studies Malaysia, and is also a member of the Council of Eminent Persons who advises the Federal Government of Malaysia. Jomo is a leading scholar and expert on the political economy of development, especially in Southeast Asia. Besides writing academic papers and articles for the media, he has also written and edited over a hundred books and translated 12 volumes on subjects including industrial policy, affirmative action, ethnic relations, and Malaysian history..



Julie Janson

Julie is a Burruberrongal novelist and poet of Darug Aboriginal Nation. Her career as a playwright began when she wrote and directed plays in remote Australian Aboriginal communities. Her works include *The Crocodile Hotel* (2015), *The Light Horse Ghost* (2018) and the upcoming *Benevolence* (2019), as well as 10 produced plays, including two at Belvoir Street Theatre in Sydney. She received the Judith Wright Poetry Prize 2019 and was a co-recipient of the Oodgeroo Noonuccal Poetry Prize 2016. Julie's fellowships include the Developing Writer's Fellowship, the 2000 and 2003 Asialink Literature Residencies, the Tyrone Guthrie Writing Residency, the Australia Council BR Whiting Residency, and two Varuna Fellowships.

Julie Janson is supported by the Arts Council of Australia.



Kamini Ramachandran

Kamini is a storyteller who believes in the wonder of stories to inspire children. Fluent in English and Malay, Kamini is most interested in Malaysian stories such as the legends of Borneo, stories from Langkawi, animal tales of Sang Kancil and lesser known Orang Asli folklore. She has been described as 'Singapore's most mesmerizing storyteller' by Professor Tommy Koh at the International Summit of the Book. Kamini is also the founding director of MoonShadow Stories, a contemporary storytelling entity in Singapore which spearheaded storytelling for adult audiences, and the founder of The Storytelling Centre Ltd, an organisation which sustains the art of storytelling by nurturing emerging talents through collaboration and mentorship.



Kannan Sundaram

Kannan Sundaram is an author, editor and publisher. He is the Managing Director of Kalachuvadu Publication, as well as the editor and publisher of the monthly journal on culture and politics, *Kalachuvadu*. He has published five books on Tamil media, publishing and politics and also co-organised 'Tamil In 2000s', an international Tamil conference on 20th century Tamil writing. Kannan's mission is to get the best of Tamil literature translated into other Indian and world languages and vice versa.



Karoline Kan

Karoline is a writer and journalist based in Beijing. She is the Beijing Editor at chinadialogue, she previously reported and wrote for The New York Times, That's Beijing magazine and Radio France International. She has won the 2016 International China Journalists Association's award, in the section of opinion/personal narrative. Her book, *Under Red Skies* was published in 2019.



Kho Tong Guan

Tong Guan is an academic and scholar based in Johor. He is Head of the Malaysian Chinese Literature Collection Centre and Editor-in-Chief of *Chao Foon Literary Journal* at Southern University College. He has written the short story collections *Tales of Two Towns* (2005), *Burial of Haemadipsa* (2011), and *My Professor is Terrorist* (2018), as well as the prose collection *Waiting for Nautilus* (2011) and a set of poems titled *In a Vial the Lactobacilli Kept and Gone* (2014). He has also edited many short story anthologies and literary journals, and last year co-directed the documentary *Faham* (2018).



Kim Yideum

Yideum has published six books of poetry, one novel, and two essays in Korean. English translations of her poems are available in *Cheer Up*, *Femme Fatale* (2016) and *HYSTERIA* (2019). Her writings have also been turned into a play, *The Metamorphosis* (2014), and an independent film, *After School* (2015). Yideum's poetry has garnered awards and honours including the Poetry & the World Literary Award (2010), the Kim Daljin Changwon Award (2011), the 22nd Century Literary Award (2015) and the Kim Chunsoo Award (2015). Yideum received her PhD for a thesis on Korean feminist poetics and currently teaches at Gyeongsang National University.



Kulleh Grasi

Kulleh is a poet, singer-songwriter and cultural activist of Iban descent from Kapit, Sarawak. He is the founding member of Nading Rhapsody, a Borneo band drawn from the oral traditions of Sarawak to create contemporary world music. Grasi writes primarily in Malay but he also uses indigenous languages such as Iban, Kelabit and Kayan in his poetry. His poems have been published in the Malay-English journal, *Naratif | Kisah* in 2016, while "Tell Me, Kenyalang: Selected Poems (2019) is a collection of his works which has been translated into English. He is the first Iban poet to have his book translated into English by an international publisher.



Lokman Hakim

Lokman is an author of several books including novels, short story collections, and poetry in genres ranging from science fiction to thriller, young adult and fantasy, written in the Malay language. Some of his published works include *Retina* (2014), *Monarki* (2015), *Serigala* (2016) and *Jepun* (2016). Lokman's writings has been published in *Dewan Sastera*, *Tunas Cipta*, *Pelita Bahasa*, *SelangorKini*, *Mingguan Malaysia*, *Cukaria*, *Eksentrika* and *Berita Harian*. His short story, "Pengap", was shortlisted for the 2019 Commonwealth Short Story Prize. He is currently Vice President of Malaysian Writers Society (MYWriters), a local society comprising Malaysian writers.



Long Litt Woon

Woon is a Malaysian-born anthropologist and went to Norway at age 18 as an exchange student. There, she met and married a Norwegian man, Eiof Olsen. After many happy years together, he suddenly died one day. Her memoir *The Way Through the Woods: On Mushrooms and Mourning* (2017) was published in Norway and is about two journeys: an outer journey about her discovery of the Kingdom of Fungi and an inner journey about her grief. The book has been published in 14 territories. In June 2019, *The Way Through the Woods* was nominated for the Jan Michalski Prize.

Long Litt Woon is supported by Norwegian Literature Abroad.



Lukas Rietzschel

Lukas Rietzschel is an author and poet from Räckelwitz, Germany. His work was first published in Zeit Magazin in 2012. Since then, he released his debut novel *Mit der Faust in die Welt schlagen* (2018). In 2016, the 25 year old was the recipient of the Retzhof Prize for Young Literature. His work has also appeared in various anthologies, including the 2017 Würth-Literaturpreis anthology. He currently lives in Görlitz and runs Literaturhaus, an old synagogue that functions as a meeting place and dialogue for those interested in literature.

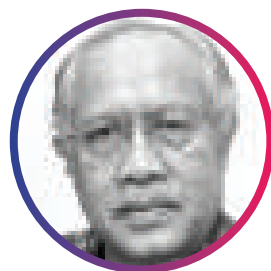
Lukas Rietzschel is supported by Goethe Institut.



Lur Alghurabi

Lur is an Iraqi-Australian writer of memoir. In 2017, she won the Scribe Nonfiction Prize and was shortlisted for the Deborah Cass Prize. Her work has been widely published by the best literary journals of Australia including *The Lifted Brow*, *Meanjin*, *Kill Your Darlings* and *Going Down Swinging*, among others. Lur is currently pursuing her Master's degree in Creative Writing at the University of Oxford.

Lur Alghurabi is supported by Writers SA and the Arts Council of Australia.



Muhammad Haji Salleh

Muhammad Haji Salleh is a poet, critic, editor and translator in both Malay and English. He has published ten collections of poems and over 30 books of criticism and translation, including *Beyond the Archipelago* (1995), *The Poetics of Malay Literature* (2008), *Jatuh ke Laut Menjadi Pulau* (2014) and *The Purple Desire of the Islands* (2016). His translations of prominent historical literature include *The Epic of Hang Tuah* (2010) and *Sulalat al-Salatin* (1977). He has been awarded the Malaysian Literary Award and the Southeast Asian Literary Prize, appointed Malaysian National Laureate, and in 2009 received the National Scholar Award. At present, Muhammad is an adjunct professor in the International Islamic University, USIM and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.



Mwaffaq Al-Hajjar

Mwaffaq is a 27-year old Syrian poet, performer, engineer and educator. He has been writing poetry since the age of 12 and performed for the first time when he was 16. Mwaffaq has won a Governmental Appreciation Award for his role in the play *The Train Station*. He has been living in Kuala Lumpur since 2016 and was the first-prize winner of the 2017 poetry competition for migrants in Malaysia. He performed his debut in theatre in Malaysia in the play *Blank* with *The Instant Cafe Theatre* company. His first book of poetry *Poetic Entropy* (2019) is published this year by *Gerakbudaya* in both Arabic and English.



Nam Ron

Nam Ron is a writer, actor and director for theatre, television and film. His career began in 1989 when he joined a theatre group in Perlis. He graduated with a diploma in theatre at the National Arts Academy (ASWARA). Nam Ron also founded and was artistic director of *Alternative Stage* (1999-2008), *Rumah Anak Teater* (2008-2013) and *Ayaq Hangat Entertainment* (2013-now). As an educator, he lectured drama and theatre at ASWARA (2000-2010) and *Universiti Malaysia Sabah* (2010-2011). Known for writing the stage plays *Matderihkolaperlih* (2003) and *Lembu* (2013), directing the feature film *Crossroads: One Two Jaga* (2018) and acting in *Redha* (2016) and *Dukun* (2018), Nam Ron holds numerous awards for his work as a writer, performer and director. In 2016, the National Department for Arts & Culture named him a *Theatre Icon*.



Nana

Nana is a writer whose original poems and short stories have been published and performed in local and international platforms. A gender non-conformist, they possess an avid interest in education through poetry and the arts. Nana performs spoken word poetry and also has experience on stage as an actor and director. In addition to publishing zines featuring original writings and artworks, they have taught in Malaysia and Brunei. Nana finished the *Malaysia National Poetry Slam 2018* as a runner-up.



Nikola Madzirov

Nikola is a Macedonian poet, essayist, literary translator and editor, born in Strumica to a family of Balkan War refugees. His poetry has been translated into over 30 languages. Madzirov was a poetry editor of the Macedonian e-magazine Blesok and is the Macedonian co-ordinator of the international network Lyrikline. He won the European Hubert Burda Prize in 2007, received the Studentski Zbor Award for Best Debut for *Locked in the City* (1999), and obtained the Miladinov Brothers Award 2007 for his book *Relocated Stone* (2007). He was previously a writer in residence at Iowa's International Writing Program and LiteraturRaum in Berlin.



Norman Erikson Pasaribu

Norman is an Indonesian poet and writer. He is the author of the short story collection *Hanya Kamu yang Tahu Berapa Lama Lagi Aku Harus Menunggu* (2014) and *Sergius Mencari Bacchus* (2016) which was translated into English by Tiffany Tsao and awarded the PEN Translates Award 2018. Norman was awarded the Young Author Award from the Southeast Asia Literary Council in 2017.



Perumal Murugan

Perumal Murugan is a Tamil writer, academic, and poet. He was forced to commit 'literary suicide' in 2015, after his book *Madhorubagan* (2010) attracted controversy by caste-based and religion-based groups in 2014. In 2016, the court dismissed the case that was lodged against the writer, and advocated protection of artistic and literary figures. The English translation of the *One Part Woman* (2017) won the Sahitya Akademi's Translation Prize. Some of his other books have been translated into English too, including *Seasons of the Palm* (2000), *Pyre* (2016), and *Poonachi, Or The Story Of A Black Goat* (2017) along with his collection of poems *Songs of a Coward: Poems of Exile* (2017). In 2018, he was elected as Vice President of PEN International, the worldwide writers' organisation.



Preeti Iyer

Preeti Iyer made waves as a viral internet sensation by creating humorous videos which provoke thought on Singaporean issues such as racial harmony and the misrepresentation of minorities in local media. Offline, she is invested in causes close to her heart such as LGBTQ+ rights and wildlife conservation. Preeti Iyer was appointed ambassador for Pink Dot and WWF in 2019.



Raymond Miranda

Raymond is a global speaker and a story and innovation expert. His previous roles in the creative ecosystem include CEO of Enfiniti Vision Media, founding Director of Multimedia University's Faculty of Cinematic Arts, and Head of Content at Rhizophora Ventures. Raymond's latest focus on the intersection between the innovation process and the human story has taken him to startup ecosystems around the globe. He was listed as one of the Top 10 Entrepreneurs to watch in 2019 by The Edge Newspaper. He holds an MFA from New York University.



Rebecca E. Karl

Rebecca is Professor of History at New York University. Her work focuses on the modern history of China. She is the author of *Mao Zedong and China in the Twentieth-Century World: A Concise History* (2010) and the upcoming *China's Revolutions in the Modern World: A Brief Interpretive History* (2020). Her academic work focuses on intellectual history, feminism, and political economy in twentieth-century China. She also writes for a number of print journals and online publications.



Regina Ibrahim

Regina is a transwoman author and holistic artiste with a strong passion for freedom of expression and transparency in storytelling. A former public school teacher, her works include *Perjalanan* (2014), *Delima* (2016), *Noor: Memoir Seorang Transwoman* (2017) and *Manusia* (2018), a novel co-written with Fahmi Mustaffa. Regina also wrote *Mak Nyah* (2015), a Malay-language guide on understanding the trans community. Based in Penang, she is currently training young writers online via Wattpad.



Sabri Yunus

Sabri is an actor and writer born in Kelantan. Formerly a painter for the Malaysian Institute of Language and Literature, he turned towards a career in showbusiness and rapidly built a name as a comedian and thespian. To date, he has been involved in numerous television dramas, sitcoms and films. Sabri's is known for his roles on the television series *Pi Mai Pi Mai Tang Tu* (1990) and the films *Imigran* (1993) and *Jogho* (1997). As a director, he received critical acclaim for his work on *Hari-Hari Terakhir Seorang Seniman* (2013) and *Pok Ya Cong Codei* (2018).



Sapardi Djoko Damono

Sapardi Djoko Damono was born in 1940 in Solo, Indonesia. He is a prolific writer and poet whose works include *Hujan Bulan Juni* (1994), *Namaku Sita* (2012), and the *Soekram* trilogy. Sapardi has also translated the literary works of George Seferis and Ernest Hemingway. Formerly Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Indonesia, he is also the recipient of the Putera Poetry Award from Malaysia (1983), the Jakarta Arts Council Literary Award (1984), and the Achmad Bakrie Award for Literature (2003).



Saras Manickam

Saras is a former school teacher from Teluk Intan, Perak, turned freelance writer, copywriter, and creative writing teacher. She is best known for being the regional winner of the 2019 Commonwealth Short Story Prize for her story 'My Mother Pattu'. Saras earned the DK Dutt Memorial Award for Literary Excellence in 2017. Her works have appeared in several anthologies and has also contributed to school workbooks and English textbooks. She is working towards her first collection of short stories.



Subhas Nair

Subhas is a hip-hop artist from Singapore. He seeks to share perspectives of the world around him and engage with people from different walks of life through his music and lyricism. After releasing his debut album *Not A Public Assembly* (2018), he has brought his work to multiple venues, including the Singapore Writers' Festival, PinkDot, and minority voices festival *Other Tongues*. Most recently, two of his songs were censored by the state of Singapore after bringing light to migrant worker issues and the double standards in the media portrayal of ethnic minorities in Singapore.



Sumit Mandal

Sumit is a historian born in Johor Bahru, Malaysia. His research and teaching focus on the connections between Asian societies across national and regional boundaries. He is interested in understanding racialised contexts by exploring cosmopolitanism and histories of belonging in multiple places. He is the author of *Becoming Arab: Creole Histories and Modern Identities in the Malay World* (2018). His current research on 'Saints of the Southern Indian Ocean: Unsettling Histories of Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and South Africa' uncovers a Malay world founded on miraculous acts and extraordinary acts of leadership, innovation, and piety.



Tan Cheng Sin

Cheng Sin is a contemporary Sinophone Malaysian writer from Bukit Mertajam. He has been involved in Sinophone literature for over 50 years, earning the Mahua Literature Award in 2014 for his contribution to the genre. Cheng Sin previously dabbled in poetry before turning towards fiction. He also translates foreign works and writes stage plays and literary reviews.



Tee Kim Tong

Kim Tong is a Malaysian-born Sinophone writer of various genres and Associate Professor of Anglo-American Literature at National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan. He is a prominent promoter of Mahua literature and has anthologised a number of collections of stories and critical essays from the field. His publications include a book on Mahua literature entitled *Studying Southeast Asian Chinese: Chinese Malaysian Literature and Cultural Identity* (2003). He also edited and co-edited anthologies such as *The Renaissance Fantasy: Arts, Politics, and Travel* (2003), *Essays on rewriting Mahua literary history* (2004), and *Essays on rewriting Taiwanese literary history* (2006). He recently published a collection of his own short stories titled *The Gecko* (2019).

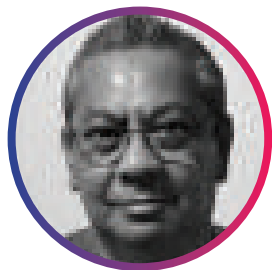
Tee Kim Tong is supported by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office.



Tiffany Tsao

Tiffany is a writer and literary translator. She is the author of the novel *Under Your Wings* (US edition forthcoming in early 2020 as *The Majesties*) and the *Oddfits* fantasy series. Her translations from Indonesian to English include Norman Erikson Pasaribu's poetry collection *Sergius Seeks Bacchus*, Dee Lestari's novel *Paper Boats*, and Laksmi Pamuntjak's *The Birdwoman's Palate*. Her translations of Norman's poetry have won the English PEN Presents and English PEN Translates awards. Born in the United States and of Chinese-Indonesian descent, her family returned to Southeast Asia when she was 3 years old. She has a Ph.D. in English literature from UC-Berkeley. She now lives in Sydney, Australia with her spouse and two children.

Tiffany Tsao is supported by the Arts Council of Australia and Malaysia Airlines.



Wan Hamidi Hamid

Wan Hamidi is a media advisor who spent about 30 years in journalism and political communication. He has worked with Berita Harian, New Straits Times, The Star, The Sun, and The Straits Times Singapore, as well as The Malaysian Insider and Democratic Action Party's Rocket multilingual publications. He also had a stint as media advisor at progressive Malaysian think tank Research for Social Advancement (REFSA) and the Australian High Commission in Kuala Lumpur. In his spare time he writes for The Malaysian Insight and Malaysiakini.



Xi Chuan

Xi Chuan is a Chinese poet, essayist and translator. He has written poetry collections, books of essays and critical writings, and a play, as well as translated the works of Ezra Pound, Jorge Luis Borges, Czesław Miłosz, Gary Snyder and others. He holds numerous awards including the National Lu Xun Prize for Literature (2001) and the Swedish Cicada prize for poetry (2018).



Zin Mahmud

Zin is a veteran journalist, political analyst and writer born in Johor. He was formerly editor of Utusan Malaysia and Harakah. His works have also been published in *Pesona* (2006) and *Pemikir* (2008). He recently published his autobiography, *Ideologi: Sebuah Memoir* (2019), which details his journey through philosophy and politics. He is currently a columnist at Free Malaysia Today.

Festival Moderators



Al-Mustaqeem M Radhi

Al-Mustaqeem is a Kuala Lumpur-based translator, writer and editor. As a translator, he has published some 30 books, including George Orwell's *Animal Farm* (as *Politik Kandang*, 2014) and Ibn Rushd's *Decisive Treatise and Epistle Dedicatory* (as *Makalah Penentu Hubungan antara Syariah dan Falsafah*, 2006). He is currently translating T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land* (1922) and Nikola Madzirov's *Remnants of Another Age* (2011). He is also the chief editor at IBDE Ilham, a publishing house based in Selangor.



Ann Lee

Born in Tawau, Sabah, Ann is a playwright, writer, editor, reviewer, and researcher. Her most recent work for the stage is as script editor with Ines Somellera and Rhoda Grauer for the production of 'Xalisco – A Place' (2019), performed in Jakarta, Bangkok, and on tour in Mexico. Her own work for the stage can be found in 'Sex, Stage and State' (2011), performed by the theatre company she co-founded, *Kuali Works* (1994-2011). Her best known, Boh Cameronian award-winning play, 'Tarak Man' has been published in 'Southeast Asian plays' (*Aurora Metro*, 2016), launched in Singapore and London.



Chris Parry

Chris designed and operates Medini Green Parks, a pair of urban parks in Iskandar Puteri, Johor that immerses visitors in edible landscapes and urban forests to deepen their understanding of and connection to the natural world. Some of his methods include public programming and the dissemination of "edible narratives", which he explored via publications for the park, including the sustainability-focused cookbook *Eat Your Landscape* (2017). Chris was previously a graphic artist and design director based in New York City. He is the founder of Johor Green, a platform focused on cultivating green urban lifestyles.



Christine Edwards

Christine has been involved in the field of communications for the past 20 years and has moderated discussions and debates across a wide range of current issues. During her media career, she presented and produced news, current affairs and business programmes for TV3, Astro and CNBC Asia. She was also part of the pioneer team at business radio station BFM 89.9. She currently works with the British Council.



Dina Zaman

Dina is a Malaysian writer and editor. Her works include *I Am Muslim* (2007) and *Holy Men, Holy Women: A Journey Into the Faiths of Malaysians and Other Essays* (2018). She has been in the media for over 20 years, serving as editor at *Malaysiakini.com* and *The Malaysian Insider*. It was during her time working for such media outlets, that she realized that many issues were not addressed, and noted certain worrying trends. She translated her passion for writing about religion into co-founding IMAN Research, a think tank focusing on society, beliefs, and perception. She is currently the Director of Fundraising and Business Development at IMAN.



Eddin Khoo

Eddin is a poet, writer, translator, journalist and teacher. He is the founder of PUSAKA, one of the region's leading cultural centers, and the publishing house Kala, which devotes itself to publishing literary translations from the world's languages to Malay. As an author and editor, he has worked on a study on traditional Malay woodcarving, *The Spirit of Wood: The Art of Malay Woodcarving* (2013), an autobiography of the celebrated Malaysian artist Ibrahim Hussein, entitled *Ib: A Life* (2010), and *I, KKK: An Autobiography of a Historian* (2017), the memoirs of the Malaysian historian Khoo Kay Kim.



Izzuddin Ramli

Izzuddin is a writer and translator. Trained as a political analyst, he decided to explore other forms of writing to feed his creative needs. His works, which comprise commentaries and creative non-fiction on politics, culture, and the arts, have appeared in *Penang Monthly*, *New Naratif* and *Nikkei Asian Review*. He has also been published in *Media and Elections: Democratic Transition in Malaysia* (2018), *Letters to Home* (2016), and *Lastik: Lontaran Batu-Batu Kerikil* (2016). Izzuddin's latest publication is *Melayu Atau Kemelayuan: Menelusuri Sejarah Idea* (2019), the translation of Anthony Milner's *The Malays*.



Kam Raslan

Kam is a Malaysian writer, director and broadcaster. He previously ran a weekly column in *The Edge* and *Off the Edge* magazine. Kam's writings have been compiled in *Generation: A Collection of Contemporary Malaysian Ideas* (1997). He is also the author of *Confessions of an Old Boy: The Dato' Hamid Adventures* (2007) and host of BFM Radio's "A Bit of Culture" which airs on Saturdays.



Lilianne Fan

Lilianne is a cultural anthropologist and humanitarian with more than 20 years of experience working with refugees, internally displaced persons, and communities affected by conflict and disaster. She is the International Director and Co-Founder of *Geutanyoë Foundation*, and Chair of the *Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network's Rohingya Working Group* (APRRN).



Melisa Idris

Melisa is a journalist who's spent 15 years immersed in various media platforms — newswire, print, online, radio and television. Melisa is currently Assistant Vice President and Editor at Astro Awani, and anchor of the talk shows 'Consider This' and 'The Future Is Female'. Prior to her foray into television, she was Executive Producer and Anchor of BFM89.9's morning radio drive-time show. In 2017, Melisa was chosen to participate in the Wolfson Journalism Fellowship at the University of Cambridge, UK, to research Post-Truth and the spread of 'fake news' and disinformation.



Suhaimi Sulaiman

Suhaimi is one of Malaysia's top media personalities. Having spent over 29 years as a news anchor, talk show host and media strategist, he authored *I Hate Reading the Teleprompter — My 25 years in Broadcast Journalism* (2016) and currently runs a media consultancy. A man of many interests, Suhaimi owns a cafe and backpackers hostel in Melaka. He is also a fashion entrepreneur who designs and sells contemporary batik shirts with his business partner Asyraf Amir. His creative work includes writing and recording 3 original songs with composer Islah Ibrahim. Suhaimi was recently appointed as Adjunct Professor by Taylor's University. He is formerly the Editor-in-Chief and CEO of Astro AWANI.



Tehmina Kaoosji

Tehmina is a journalist, producer, broadcaster and media personality based in Malaysia. An advocate of gender equality and social justice, she has moderated or spoken at the World Bank Malaysia Economic Monitor, National Consultation for a Malaysian Media Council, Women Changing the Content Landscape in Malaysia, and TEDxKL 2019, among others. Tehmina is a board member of the Institute of Journalists Malaysia, and as a founding member of the Journalists Alliance of Malaysia, she has contributed to the drafting of a Malaysian Media Council and Code of Conduct to further freedom of the press and media ethics. She currently hosts *The Nation* and *Bernama Today* on *Bernama News Channel*.



Tiwin Aji

Tiwin is a Bruneian media personality who gained popularity with her video blog, “Winnie on Wednesday”, where she tackles social issues with humour and sass. She is currently a DJ at Progresif Radio, where she hosts “T-Time”, a show that uses celebrity news as a way to deconstruct and challenge media bias, celebrity culture and social media clout; and “How To Win”, a podcast where she uses her personal life experiences as lessons on leading a life of peace, self-acceptance, and empowerment. Tiwin has over a decade of experience in media and communications, and formerly led a column in The Brunei Times called “Ageing For Beginners”, and an advice column called “Winnie Wisdom” on media platform, The Scoop.



Zhou Hau Liew

Zhou Hau is a writer, researcher and documentary filmmaker. He received his PhD in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory from the University of Pennsylvania in 2017, and is a 2018-19 Mellon postdoctoral fellow in the Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard University. He also writes fiction and criticism, which have been published in The Shanghai Literary Review, Asian American Writers’ Workshop, Full Stop Quarterly, The Mekong Review, and Naratif Kisah.

Festival Guests

Alwin Blum

Beh Gaik Lean

Cecil Rajendra

Chacko Vadaketh

Damyanti Biswas

Florence Kuek

Foo May Lyn

Francis Loh Kok Wai

Harbir Gill

Jahabar Sadiq

John Brunton

Julia Tan

K. S. Maniam

M. S. Prem Nath

**Malachi Edwin
Vethamani**

Murali Ram

Ooi Kee Beng

Prema Devaraj

Ram Al Jaffri Saad

**Rexy Prakash
Chacko**

S. H. Ooi

S. M. Zakir

Sandeep Ray

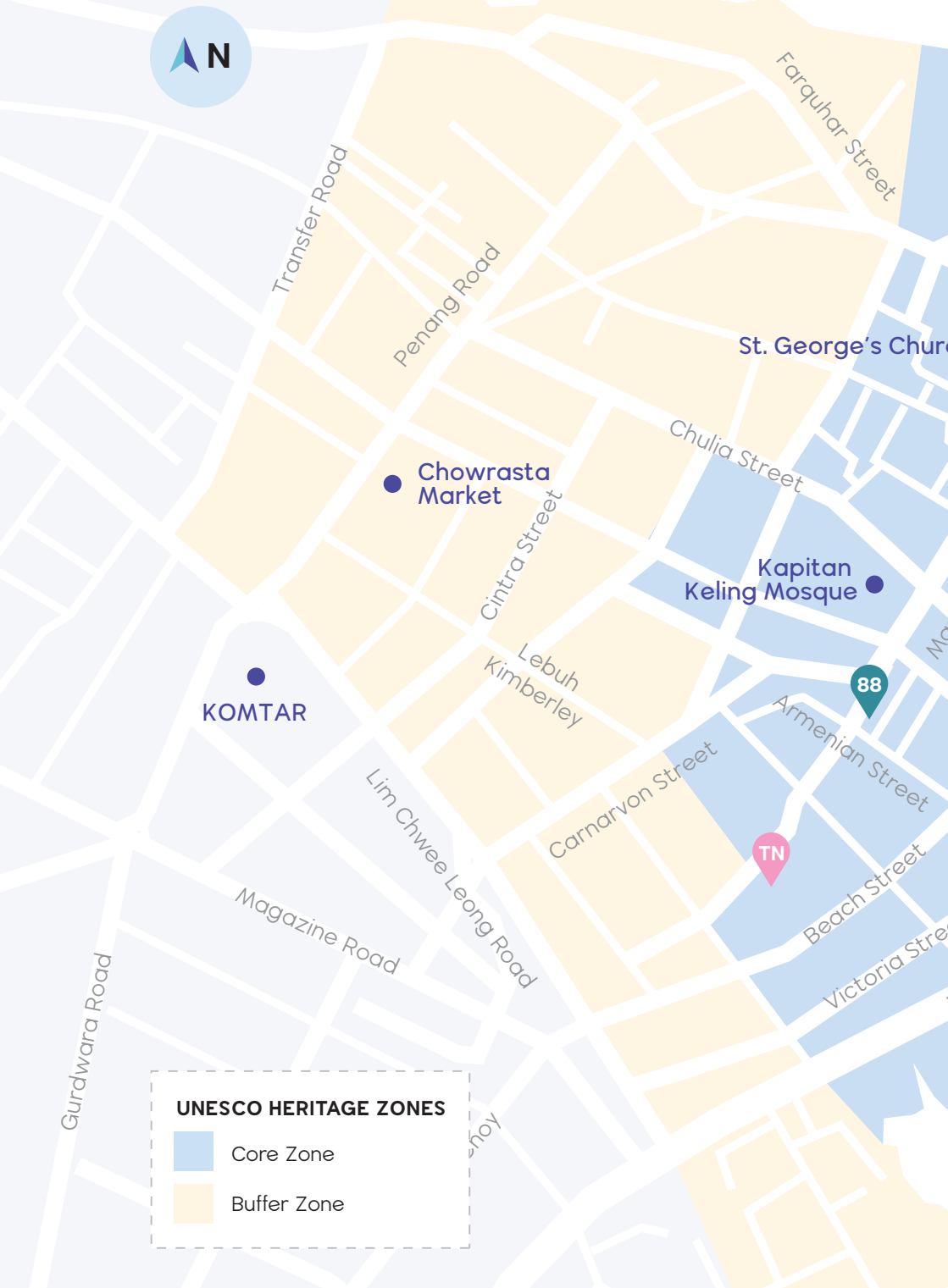
**Syerleena Abdul
Rashid**

Performers

Dramband

Nading Rhapsody

WVC Jazz Ensemble





Festival Map



FESTIVAL VENUE

-  Bangunan UAB
-  Black Kettle
-  Hikayat Blue
-  The Canteen, China House
-  88 Armenian
-  MOTAC Office
-  The Nook Books & Cafe
-  Loft 29

FESTIVAL HOTEL

-  Royale Chulan Penang
-  Victoria Garden

Production Team

Penang Convention & Exhibition Bureau

Ashwin Gunasekeran

Adviser

Siti Sarah Ismail

Finance Manager

Sylvia Chan, Terry Neoh, Toh Mei Chern & Yasmin Bathamanathan

Production Assistants

Adeline Chua

Education Consultant

Deric Ee

Festival Manager & Design Lead

Swarna Rajagopal

Festival Coordinator

Dong Chee Hui, Chen Wei Teng & Najwa Nazifah

Interns

Dr. Fadzillah Amzah

Student Liaison

Acknowledgments

We thank the following individuals for channeling their energy towards the festival in various positive ways.

Catherine Khor

Lee Su Kim

Soonufat Supramaniam

Umar Azizi

Enzo Sim

Mislina Mustaffa

Teoh Choon Ean

Notes

Notes

Festival Bookstore



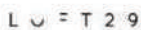
Main Hotel Partner



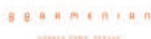
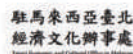
Hotel Partner



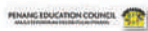
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